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WAR ON TERRORISM

UNDER SUSPICION

US denies claims
of civilian deaths
in strikes targeting
Islamic State group

By W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

The sun was setting over the desert at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, as Lt. Col. Jose "Ed" Sumangil, commander of a B-1 bomber squadron known as "The Bats," stepped into a room crowded with pilots and crews for a final briefing before the night's combat mission.

Sumangil, a U.S. Air Force weapons systems officer with a graying mustache and a ramrod bearing, could recite

part of the briefing word for word because he has heard it before every bombing run.

"Savor the moment," the PowerPoint slides read. "Be lethal and accurate." And above all, avoid "civicas," military jargon for civilian casualties.

"It's our mantra," Sumangil said before donning his survival suit and helmet, strapping on a semi-automatic pistol and heading out to the flight line. "We do everything we can, every step of the way, to mitigate against civilian deaths."

U.S. and coalition warplanes have dropped more than 8,200 guided bombs and missiles on Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria since last summer. With the latest surveillance and guidance systems, commanders say, they do more than ever before to prevent bombs from hitting a hospital or causing any sort of unintended fatalities that could bolster support for the Sunni Muslim extremists.

"We can lose this war with one bomb," said Air Force Col. Lynn "Woody" Peitz, deputy commander of the air operations center at Al Udeid. "The strategic mistake is what I fear the most."

How well they're doing is a matter of dispute.

SEE SUSPICION ON PAGE 7

INSIDE

Egypt retaliates after
video of mass killing

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Iran-backed Shiites
lead fight against
Islamic State in Iraq

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A B-1B Lancer assigned to the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron takes off Jan. 12 from Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar. The B-1 provides support to the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group.

PERRY ASTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

As Hagel's tenure ends, a look back

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Chuck Hagel's tenure as secretary of defense comes to a close Tuesday. During two turbulent years at the helm of the Pentagon, he won kudos for managing the Defense Department bureaucracy during a period of downsizing but may have been scapegoated for the policy disarray following the rise of the Islamic State in the Middle East.

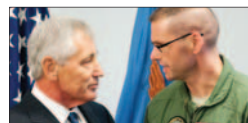
Defense analysts give the former Nebraska Republican senator high marks for managing the withdrawal of combat forces from Afghanistan, setting in motion the shift in military resources to the Pacific, and coping with the deep, congressionally mandated budget cuts known as "sequestration."

All those achievements, however, were overshadowed by the Obama administration's muddled response to the rise of the Islamic State group and the militants seized about a third of Syria and Iraq and routed the U.S.-trained Iraqi army last year.

The Associated Press reported this month that foreign fighters are streaming into Syria and Iraq in unprecedented numbers, including at least 3,400 from Western nations among the 20,000 from around the world.

In Iraq, efforts to retrain the Iraqi army are moving slowly, and the Islamic State has threatened one of the air bases where U.S. troops are training Iraqi forces. Meanwhile, the Pentagon program to recruit and train moderate forces to fight the Islamic State in Syria has barely gotten off the ground.

SEE HAGEL ON PAGE 3



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, who is stepping down Tuesday, greets Air Force Lt. Col. Phil Heseltine during a farewell event at the Pentagon on Jan. 30. Hagel, a Vietnam veteran, has been described as a "soldier's soldier" who cared deeply about the people he led.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What will be a relief to me is to take a hold of his (my son's) murderer, tear him apart, eat up his flesh and liver."

— Bushra Fawzi, weeping over the loss of his son, Shenouda, 22, who was among Egyptian Christian hostages beheaded by Islamic State militants in Libya

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5. Farewell to Kiowa helicopters for Hawaii Army unit

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MILITARY

US begins anti-terrorism drills in Africa

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. special operations forces kicked off three weeks of counterterrorism drills Monday in a series of western African states — including Niger and Chad — despite recent strikes by the insurgent group Boko Haram.

"We haven't canceled anything and our troops are fully prepared to handle anything," said Bardha Azari, a spokeswoman for Special Operations Command Africa.

The U.S. military on Monday commenced its annual Operation Flintlock, U.S. Africa Command's premier special operations exercise on the continent. The war games, which are intended to help a range of African militaries

bolster their counterterrorism skills, come at a time of crises for several countries in the region.

In the past year, Nigeria-based Boko Haram has steadily increased the intensity of its assaults, both within northern Nigeria and now stretching into border areas with neighboring states such as Chad and Niger. This year, Chad is serving as the main host for the event, which includes stations in several other countries, including Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon and Tunisia. The exercise runs through March 9.

Last week, Boko Haram launched strikes inside Chad, marking possibly the first time Chad has been a direct target for the Islamic militants, whose aim is to overthrow Nigeria's secular government and install a strict

form of Sharia law.

Niger also has been targeted by militants in recent weeks. The government in Niger's Diffa region has gone so far as to declare a state of emergency there.

For AFRICOM, exercises such as Flintlock are a key part of a strategy that aims to strengthen the capabilities of local forces to deal with regional threats such as Boko Haram. Chad, Niger and Cameroon are among the countries that have pledged to increase their operations against Boko Haram as part of a regional response.

As Boko Haram's attacks have increased, refugees have been flooding into neighboring states. The continuing violence and a resulting refugee crisis — about 1 million Nigerians have been dis-

placed by Boko Haram — have heightened concerns about the future stability of Nigeria and of impoverished neighboring states.

Last April, Boko Haram came to the world's attention after kidnapping 200 schoolgirls, which prompted a viral, grass-roots push for action in response through the "Bring Back our Girls" social media campaign. That effort also led the U.S. to send in military advisers and surveillance drones to assist in an international manhunt for the missing girls.

However, Boko Haram has steadily increased its attacks and gained in strength. Estimates vary, but some experts believe the group could occupy as much as 20 percent of the country.

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JARROD MORRIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Uncasing colors in Afghanistan

Col. J.B. Vowell, left, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, and Command Sgt. Maj. Walter Tagalicud uncased the brigade's colors at a ceremony Sunday at Tactical Base Gamberi in Afghanistan. The ceremony marks 3rd BCT's assumption of responsibility for the advisory mission and force protection of troops.



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MILITARY

Hagel: Defense analysts cite major achievements in Hagel's short tenure

FROM FRONT PAGE

President Barack Obama has ruled out sending U.S. ground forces into combat in Iraq or Syria, which makes training local forces to retake terrain controlled by the Islamic State group all the more critical.

The White House has alluded to differences with Hagel over the Middle East, while at the same time denying he was pressured into resigning.

"The priorities of the department... have changed (since Hagel took over), given changes in the international community," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said on Nov. 24, the day Hagel's resignation was announced. "As we consider the next remaining two years of the president's time in office, [we believe] that another secretary might be better suited to meet those challenges."

Hagel's personality might have contributed to the perception that he was not skilled at articulating policy. In unscripted remarks, he often rambled or delivered muddled responses to questions. During his Senate confirmation hearings, Hagel appeared ill-prepared to answer questions about his record and views.

"I think it did damage him in the eyes of the (Pentagon) bureaucracy... but most of all the White House," said MacKenzie Eaglen, a defense analyst at the American Enterprise Institute. Eaglen said Hagel's tenure started off "with a whimper and an embarrassing one that contributed to the perception of him as a sort of weak and inarticulate Pentagon leader."

But Christopher Preble, a defense analyst at the Cato Institute, said Obama is ultimately responsible for the administration's policy in the Middle East.

"At the end of the day, the (secretary of defense) doesn't make big national security decisions, he implements decisions," Preble said in an email. "If Barack Obama was determined to [have a more aggressive Syria policy], Hagel would have been responsible for executing the mission."

Several analysts described Hagel as a "fall guy" who was the victim of politics. Shortly before Hagel's resignation was announced, Democrats suffered an embarrassing defeat in the midterm elections and the administration's approach in the Middle East was being widely criticized.

"I think they removed him because [of] the election and... the fact that they had to go back into Iraq [to combat insurgents]," said Lawrence Korb, a senior national security fellow at the Center for American Progress. "They were looking for a scapegoat."

Nevertheless, defense analysts say Hagel had significant achievements during his brief tenure:

■ Hagel took office, there were 68,000 troops in Afghanistan fighting what had already become America's longest war. At the end of 2014, the U.S. combat mission officially came to a close. It is now a train-and-advise mission. There are about 10,000 American troops performing that role.

Korb noted that Hagel secured a deal with the Afghans to keep a sizable force there to continue the training effort and a limited counterterrorism mission.

■ The U.S. signed major basing agreements with countries in the Pacific, started rotational deployments and put forth cutting-edge platforms. There's also been at least some improvement in military cooperation with China.

"He has maintained a balance to Asia at a time when some of the rest of the admin-



JOHN SLEZEE, KANSAS CITY (MO.) STAR/TNS

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel speaks to servicemembers during a visit to Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, Mo., on Jan. 13.

istration had a hard time focusing on that crucial region," Michael O'Hanlon, a defense analyst at the Brookings Institution, said in an email.

■ Analysts gave Hagel high marks for dealing with sequestration and force reductions on this front, especially compared with his predecessors. They noted the Pentagon was guilty of wishful thinking before Hagel took over. "(Leon) Panetta said 'sequestration wouldn't happen [and the Pentagon] just didn't plan for it,'" Korb said.

Eaglen said the Strategic Choices and Management Review, which Hagel initiated, generated the first document that laid out the strategic, personnel and modernization implications of varying budget levels in the coming years.

In a recent interview in his office, Hagel noted that he was more burdened than his predecessors on the fiscal front.

"I'm the first secretary of defense who's actually had to deal with sequestration and the consequences of sequestration. I'm the first secretary of defense who actually had to put together... a real budget, a practical budget with the law of sequestration hanging over us," he said.

Experts described Hagel as a guy who was dealt a bad fiscal hand but played it well.

"I think he was a very competent manager," Eaglen said. "He may not have been the leader everybody wanted, but at this point in where we are with the drawdown, post-Budget Control Act cuts and sequestration... I'd argue that Hagel was what the Pentagon needed at the time."

■ Hagel held regular meetings with junior enlisted and junior officers, away from commanders, to get candid views. He ordered more than 30 initiatives to combat sexual assault. He shook up the POW/MIA accounting offices plagued by incompetence and malpractice. He surged Defense Department personnel to Veterans Affairs facilities to help deal with the claims backlog. Also, he ordered officials to consider post-traumatic stress disorder as a mitigating factor for Vietnam veterans who received other-than-honorable discharges that prevented them from receiving care.

After Hagel's resignation was announced, John Stroud, the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, praised "the close, unprecedented working relationship he (Hagel) built between the Pentagon and the VFW," adding that "his leadership and his presence will be missed."

Korb described Hagel, who was awarded two Purple Hearts in Vietnam, as a "soldier's soldier" who cared deeply about the people he was leading.

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Marines hurt in Calif. training out of hospital

The Associated Press

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. — A military hospital on Friday released the last five of 22 Marines accidentally exposed to a fire retardant gas during a training exercise at a Southern California base, a Marine Corps spokesman said.

The Marines were treated for exposure to halon after an extinguishing system accidentally activated in an amphibious assault vehicle during an exercise Thursday at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms.

The five were kept for observation overnight at the base hospital, Capt. Justin Smith said.

Officials were investigating what caused the fire suppression system to go off inside the tanklike amphibious assault vehicle, Smith said. There was no fire or explosion.

Halon gas is widely used in fire extinguisher systems because it is relatively non-

toxic and leaves no residue, but it can cause breathing problems at high concentrations. The U.S. banned new production of halon in the 1990s because it can deplete ozone in the atmosphere, but its use is still allowed.

The Marines were from the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, based in Hawaii and were participating in an integrated training exercise at the Southern California base, according to the Marine Corps.

They were inside an armored vehicle that is used to ferry Marines from ships to shore.

Twentynine Palms, 130 miles east of Los Angeles, is the largest Marine training base in the world. Thousands of Marines take part in live-fire drills in rugged terrain deep in the Mojave desert.

In January, two Marine pilots, Capt. Elizabeth Kealey and 1st Lt. Adam Satterfield, were killed when their helicopter crashed during a training exercise at the base. The cause of the crash is under investigation.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington on Wednesday before the House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on the VA budget.

VA chief vows progress made

BY WESLEY LOWERY

The Washington Post

Seven months after taking the helm of the embattled Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert McDonald insisted in his first interview on a Sunday morning news program that he has brought new accountability measures to a scandalized department.

"We're making fundamental changes in the department... 900 people have been fired since I became secretary," McDonald told Chuck Todd, of "Meet the Press." "We've got 60 people who we've fired who have manipulated wait times. We've got about 100 senior leaders who are under investigation now... so we're holding people accountable."

The appearance came a week after McDonald got into a heated exchange with Rep. Mike Coffman, R-Colo., who implied in a congressional hearing that McDonald was glossing over systemic issues at VA.

Despite some criticism, McDonald has insisted that his leadership has started to

make a difference.

"Wait times are down 18 percent nationally... We're making progress," McDonald said. "We're not where we need to be yet, I'm not saying that. What I'm saying is we're making progress, we're moving in the right direction."

McDonald, the former chief executive of Procter & Gamble, took over the VA last summer as the nation was outraged to learn that veterans hospitals had systematically understated wait times for medical care for veterans, and that some veterans had died during those waits.

The scandal led to Eric Shinseki's resignation as VA secretary and prompted McDonald's appointment with a mandate to reform.

"I'm determined to take business practices and apply them to government and make them work," McDonald said. "And I think so far, with what we've done, with the improvements we've made and the changes we've seen, it works."

MILITARY

Army veterinarians hone skills at zoo

By Travis Loller
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — At home in Fort Campbell, U.S. Army veterinarians mostly treat military working dogs and family pets. But once deployed, they could be called upon to treat just about anything.

It could be camels or livestock or even lions and tigers, as some Army veterinarians discovered during the war in Iraq when they were called upon to help rebuild the devastated Baghdad Zoo.

To be ready for whatever is thrown at them, Fort Campbell veterinarians and techs are improving their skills by going on rounds at the Nashville Zoo. It's about an hour from the base, which straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

A recent Wednesday found Capt. Eric Zuniga and Maj. Renee Krebs huddled around a radiograph of the tiny lungs of a hedgehog named Lady. She had ADR, Zuniga said, explaining that the acronym is short for "Ain't Doin' Right," a common complaint

among the pets they deal with at the Fort Campbell veterinary clinic. Getting the radiograph required sedating Lady by placing a tiny conical mask over her nose through which she breathed in anesthetic gas.

‘You never know what you’re going to get here, other than it’s probably something you’ve never done in your life.’

Capt. Eric Zuniga
Army veterinarian

was rolled onto her side, exposing her pink belly. An oxygen sensor was clipped to her leg and a hot water bottle and microwaved bag of dry rice were placed next to her to keep her body temperature up.

The vets also collected blood from a vein in her front leg but were not able to get enough for testing. The diagnosis is uncertain.

Other cases were more straightforward. A baby alpaca needed to be vaccinated. A pregnant giraffe needed a checkup. Without going into detail, let's just say this involved a sleeve-length plastic glove and lubricant.

Zuniga first came up with the idea of partnering with the zoo. Now, most Wednesdays find Zuniga, Krebs and other members of their unit making the drive from the sprawling Army base to work with zoo veterinarian Heather Robertson.

"Our guys love to come here. ... They've worked with red river



Above: Capt. Eric Zuniga, an Army veterinarian from Fort Campbell, uses an air pistol to give vaccinations to Bongo, a springbok, at the Nashville Zoo in Tennessee.

Left: Zuniga administers anesthetic to Fezzik, a Flemish Giant rabbit, before examining the rabbit's inflamed ear.

Below: Associate zoo veterinarian Dr. Margarita Woc Colburn, left, checks on Ted, another springbok at the zoo.

PHOTOS BY MARK HUMPHREY/AP

hogs, giraffes, performed surgery on a lizard," Zuniga said. "You never know what you're going to get here, other than it's probably something you've never done in your life."

Army veterinarians care for the working animals in all branches of the federal government. That can include dolphins, horses and falcons, but most of the time it is dogs. All that canine medicine does not prepare them for the times when they are confronted with animals whose anatomy and biology are totally different.

Erin McLoughlin, who is no longer in the Army, was one of the veterinary technicians who found herself at the Baghdad Zoo in 2004. Army vets have to "expect the unexpected and make do with what you have," she said.

On one occasion, she helped remove a tumor from a bear. Someone was filming the operation, and the light of the camera illuminated the surgery. Then blood spurted out, and the light went away.

"I looked around, and the person with the camera had passed out," she said.



New Montana Air Guard dual commander named

GREAT FALLS, Mont. — The Montana Air National Guard 120th Airlift Wing has a new commander.

Col. Lee Smith is active-duty Air Force and will be a dual-status commander. He currently is the vice commander of the 86th Airlift Wing in Ramstein, Germany.

It's the first time a unit has had a dual-status commander in the history of Air Mobility Command, the parent command for the 120th. A dual-status commander serves in federal and state status simultaneously, and the dual status must be approved by the secretary of defense and the governor.

Earlier this month, outgoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel signed off on Smith's assignment.

The Great Falls Tribune reported that Smith will assume command during a ceremony scheduled for March 7.

Dakota Indians planning code talkers monument

STANDING ROCK SIOUX RESERVATION, N.D. — Tribal leaders in the Dakotas are working together to build a monument to honor Native American code talkers.

The code talkers were a group of American Indians who used their native languages to outwit the enemy and protect U.S. battlefield communications during World Wars I and II.

The monument would be displayed on the South Dakota capitol grounds.

Coast Guard rescues sailors off Nantucket

BOSTON — The Coast Guard says an Australian father and son were rescued after their oceangoing sailboat ran into trouble during Sunday's storm.

Petty Officer LaNola Stone told WBZ-TV that the men were picked up about 140 miles southeast of Nantucket by a Coast Guard Jayhawk helicopter based on Cape Cod.

Stone said the sailors called for help around 5 a.m. when their 43-foot boat lost power and had its sails torn.

Fighter jets practice off coast of Georgia

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Fighter pilots from across the United States are training in a large exercise off the coast of Georgia.

The Savannah Morning News reported that the exercise will draw military units from Washington, Florida, Minnesota and South Carolina. It ends Feb. 22.

Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Rachel said the exercise gives pilots the change to experience flying in areas crowded with dozens of planes. He said it's an important skill for pilots heading into combat zones.

From The Associated Press

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VETERANS



MANUEL BALCE CENETIA/AP

Veterans Affairs Undersecretary for Benefits Allison Hickey testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington last Wednesday at a House Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing on the VA budget.

VA reaches out on Facebook to victims of sexual trauma

By EMILY WAX-THIBODEAUX

The Washington Post

"The female veterans on the 'Women Veterans for Equality in our VA System' Facebook page couldn't believe what they saw.

But there it was — a Department of Veterans Affairs military sexual trauma coordinator personally assigned to helping them, answering questions directly and guiding them through what many say is an emotionally harrowing and complicated financial benefits process. The Washington Post last month chronicled efforts, sometimes for decades, by this group to receive financial benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder caused by sexual trauma — ranging from harassment to rape — in the military.

The VA's Heather Lonigro, freshly trained in working on the sexual abuse claims, was standing by and ready to help, she wrote on the Facebook page.

The idea to appoint Lonigro specifically to the Facebook group came from Allison Hickey, who as undersecretary for benefits in the VA is in charge of more than 20,000 employees and delivering services to more than 12 million veterans. She is also, as she put it in an interview in her Washington office last week, "a woman who served in the military, and I know."

"I knew far too many who have been through the people were, very close to me, and it literally

destroys lives, reproduction, marriages. It rings true, and it totally destroys people," said Hickey, who is a retired brigadier general in the Air Force and served in the military for 27 years.

"This issue — among others — is the reason I came to the VA,"

said Hickey, who was in the first class in the U.S. Air Force Academy to include women. She said she didn't want to share whether she had any personal experiences with sexual trauma while serving, but said, "You aren't a first go through that without experiencing or knowing someone who experienced this at every turn."

So far, 19 veterans have received their benefits since Hickey assigned the group a claims officer, said former Army Pfc. Katie Weber, who founded the page and is a sexual trauma survivor. She said she was raped by another soldier when she was 18 while posted in Nuremberg, Germany. The 19 veterans include one male, and men and women who experienced sexual abuse and have struggled to get claims.

"I have watched veterans who have waited decades to live a quality of life they earned and deserve by serving in the military," Weber said. "When I invited Undersecretary Hickey to add a claims specialist to our group, I honestly did not believe it would happen. I am thrilled about this. So many women are getting help. And it really, really has the power to turn their lives around."

Part of the problem is that veterans are unable to get disability compensation benefits for sexual trauma because they do not have enough paperwork to support their claims. Advocacy groups and VA officials blame a culture of secrecy and denial inside the military that heavily discourages women from reporting sexual assault.

Hickey said she is talking with the Pentagon about forming a special program that would allow the VA's benefits department to look at so-called "restricted files," a term used to describe a sexual assault case that is reported inside the military but deemed private.

"That would make claims go faster, and we could do it carefully and confidentially," she said.

She also said the VA is nearly halfway through training 5,000 doctors and nurses specifically in helping women with sexual trauma.

The department labels as military sexual trauma any unwanted contact, including sexual innuendo, groping and rape.

W.Va. vets more likely to commit suicide than general population

By ERIN BECK

The Charleston (W.Va.) Gazette

Tara Abdalla loved ballet, drawing, writing poems and serving her country.

Richard Abdalla, Tara's father, said she was friendly and outgoing. She didn't show any outward signs of suffering in her phone conversations with him while she was stationed at Hill Air Force Base, Utah.

But on June 3, 2006, Tara, 23, took her own life.

As of the end of September, about 9 percent of West Virginians were military veterans, according to U.S. Census data. But veterans made up about 23 percent of state suicides from 2000 to 2013, according to the Department of Health and Human Resources' Health Statistics Center.

Looking back now, Abdalla says he sees that several of Tara's experiences contributed to her emotional struggle. Tara was not allowed to deploy because of her last name, even though the family is not Muslim. He said there were incidents of American soldiers attacking other American soldiers who had Arabic last names.

"The whole reason she joined

was to go over there," Abdalla said. "She was really upset that she couldn't go. She understood why, but she didn't like it."

She was also dealing with thyroid problems, which ultimately resulted in her being released from the Air Force. She stayed in Utah to try to work things out with a boyfriend with whom she was having problems. She became pregnant, but had a miscarriage. She also found out that her grandmother, with whom she was very close, had Alzheimer's disease.

"It's never just one problem," Abdalla said. "It's several problems."

Abdalla wants to urge people considering suicide to ask for help, and for friends and family to listen for signs of emotional pain. "If they personally can't help, get them in touch with somebody who can," he said.

Never deployed

In 2011, the rate of suicide among users of Veterans Health Administration services in West Virginia was 32.0 per 100,000, according to Kerry Meeker, a spokeswoman for the Department of Veterans Affairs. The

rate among the general population in the state was 17.4.

Dr. Caitlin Thompson, deputy director for suicide prevention at the VA, said many of those who die by suicide were never deployed.

"There's a misperception that veterans who are in combat, they go through horrible situations in war and they can't deal with those, and they come home and kill themselves," she said. "While that certainly happens to some veterans, we've found that most veterans who die by suicide, especially in our most recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq, they've never been deployed."

The VA is studying reasons why that could be occurring. Veterans' familiarity with firearms can increase the likelihood that attempts will be completed, according to Thompson. The likelihood of veterans owning a firearm means they are more readily accessible when veterans are feeling suicidal, she said.

Thompson also said that while most veterans who die by suicide are over the age of 50, the rate among 18- to 26-year-olds is quickly increasing. She noted that veterans are part of a strong support system when they are de-

ployed. It can be difficult to transition after a deployment without that support network.

Figures from the DHHR's Health Statistics Center show that from 2000 to 2013, 983 veteran deaths were documented as suicides. Of those, 881 were people 35 or older, and 413 were people over age 65.

Suicide awareness

Dr. Dan Reidenberg, director of Suicide Awareness Voices of Education, pointed out that senior veterans were raised in a time when suicide wasn't talked about.

"The more we can make it OK for them to talk about it now, the better chance we have at getting them the help that they need," he said.

Older veterans also struggle with watching returning younger vets get treated with more dignity than they were, he said. They also might be dealing with aches and pains from war injuries and have difficulty adjusting as they become physically limited.

Reidenberg said it is important to recognize senior veterans for their service, even late in life. "I see stories in the news of somebody who might be in their

70s or 80s finally given a Purple Heart," he said. "Those kinds of opportunities we can take to honor them and pay tribute to them helps their emotional well-being."

He said that while many senior veterans are wary of the VA, he believes the VA is improving its quality of care.

Thompson said the VA tries to encourage veterans to seek help in several ways. The VA runs a hot line for veterans in crisis to make that first contact. Veterans can reach the crisis hot line by calling 800-273-8255, then pressing 1.

Veterans also have the option to text crisis workers or chat online.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Video of mass killing prompts Egypt to retaliate

Warplanes strike Islamic State targets in Libya; international intervention in battle is sought

BY HAMZA HENDAWI
AND MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Egyptian warplanes struck Islamic State targets in Libya on Monday in swift retribution for the extremists' beheading of a group of Egyptian Christian hostages on a beach, shown in a grisly online video released hours earlier.

At the same time, Egypt called for international intervention in Libya against the Islamic State group. Loyalists of the Syria and Iraq-based group have risen to dominate several cities in the chaos-riven North African nation.

Italy, just across the Mediterranean Sea, said it is prepared to lead international action in Libya.

After the release of the beheading video Sunday night, the tiny Christian-majority home village of more than half of the 21 Egyptians believed killed by the extremists was gutted by grief. Inside the village church, relatives wept and shouted the names of the dead in shock.

'I want his (my son's) body back. If they dumped it in the sea, I want it back. If they set fire to it, I want its dust.'

Bushra Fawzi el-Aour, Egypt

murderer, tear him apart, eat up his flesh and liver," said Bushra Fawzi in el-Aour village, as he wept over the loss of his son, Shounoua, 22. "I want his body back. If they dumped it in the sea, I want it back. If they set fire to it, I want its dust."

The 21 — mainly young men from impoverished families — had traveled to Libya for work and were kidnapped in two groups in December and January from the coastal city of Sirte. In the video, the group is marched onto what is purported to be a Libyan beach before masked militants with knives carve off the head of each. The killing of at least a dozen of them is clearly visible, though it was not clear from the video whether all 21 hostages were killed.

Two rounds of Egyptian airstrikes, several hours apart on Monday, struck targets in the eastern Libyan city of Darna, according to Egyptian and Libyan security officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Egypt's military announced the strikes on state radio, marking the first time Cairo has publicly acknowledged military action in Libya. It said the strikes hit weapons caches and training camps "to avenge the bloodshed and to seek retribution from the killers."



AP photos

This image made from a video and released Sunday by militants in Libya claiming loyalty to the Islamic State group purportedly shows Egyptian Coptic Christians being led along a beach, each accompanied by a masked militant.

A look at militants' reach into N. Africa

BY RYAN LUCAS
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The mass beheadings of Egyptian Christians by militants in Libya linked to the Islamic State group have thrown a spotlight on the threat the extremists pose beyond their heartland in Syria and Iraq, where they have established a self-declared proto-state. Militants in several countries — including Libya, Egypt, Algeria, Yemen and Saudi Arabia — have pledged allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, although the degree of coordination and operational planning between the group's leadership and its affiliates remains unclear.

Here's a look at the Islamic State group's reach across North Africa.

■ **Libya.** The country has been in free fall since the end of the civil war that ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. Libya's elected government has relocated to the far eastern part of the country, while a loose alliance of militias have set up a rival government in the capital, Tripoli. Fighting between government forces and Islamic militias rages in the second-largest city of Benghazi. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, embassies have shuttered and diplomats have fled the country, along with hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers, many of them Egyptian.

This chaos has proven fertile ground for the Islamic State group, which has received pledges of allegiance from several extremist factions in Libya. Affiliated groups divide the vast, oil-rich country of 6 million people into three regions: Tripoli, Barqa or Cyrenaica in the east, and Fazzan in the south. The interior minister of Libya's elected government, Omar al-Sinki, has



Demonstrators chant pro-Islamic State group slogans as they carry the group's flags in front of the provincial government headquarters in Mosul, Iraq, last June. Militants in several countries have pledged allegiance to Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

said that al-Baghdadi appointed a Tunisian named Abu Talha to lead the Islamic State faction in Tripoli. Al-Sinki also has said that the bulk of Islamic State militants in Libya are Tunisian and Yemeni.

■ **Egypt.** The Egyptian government is battling a burgeoning insurgency centered in the strategic Sinai Peninsula, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip. North Sinai has seen a spike in militant attacks against security forces, particularly after the military ousted Islamist President Mohammed Morsi in 2013. The area has been under a dusk-to-dawn curfew since October.

Some militants there have declared their allegiance to the Islamic State group, with one such group calling itself Sinai Province of the Islamic State. It claimed responsibility for a sophisticated and multipronged set of attacks late last month on Egyptian military positions that killed 32 troops. Last October, another major attack killed more than 30 troops, and last month, Sinai Province militants

claimed responsibility for the capture and killing of a police captain.

■ **Algeria and Tunisia.** The Islamic State group's successes in Syria have inspired a number of radical Islamist groups to splinter away from the dominant North African branch of al-Qaida, known as AQIM, and declare allegiance to al-Baghdadi. Most prominent has been the Algerian Soldiers of the Caliphate, led by a veteran al-Qaida commander who kidnapped French hiker Herve Gourdel in September and then put out a video showing his beheading. Algeria unleashed a massive operation against the group last fall, and most of its known members have since been captured or killed.

In Tunisia, the radical Qqba ibn Nafaa brigade has long had good relations with AQIM, but it has also issued statements in support of the Islamic State group. More importantly, however, there has been a steady flow of Tunisian recruits to al-Baghdadi's group, most passing through Libya for training.

"Let those far and near know that Egyptians have a shield to protect and safeguard the security of the country and a sword that cuts off terrorism," it said.

Libya's air force commander, Saqr al-Joroushi, told Egyptian state TV that the airstrikes were coordinated with the Libyan side. Libya's air force said it also carried out strikes in Darna.

Libya has become home of the strongest presence of the Islamic State group outside its core territory in Syria and Iraq.

With almost no state control in much of Libya, extremists loyal to the Islamic State group have seized control of Darna and the central city of Sirte, and have built up a powerful presence in the capital, Tripoli, and the second-largest city, Benghazi. Libyan Interior Minister Omar al-Sinki has said some 400 militants from Yemen and Tunisia are believed to make up the group in Libya, along with Libyan militias that have vowed allegiance.

Egypt appears now to be launching a push for international military intervention in Libya to curb the group.

Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi spoke with France's president and Italy's prime minister Monday about the Libya situation. He sent his foreign minister, Sameh Shukri, to New York to consult with U.N. officials and Security Council members ahead of a conference on terrorism opening Wednesday in Washington.

"What is happening in Libya is a threat to international peace and security," el-Sissi said.

Egypt's Foreign Ministry said the international community must adopt "immediate and effective" moves against terrorist groups in Libya. "Leaving things in Libya as they are without decisive intervention to suppress these terror groups constitutes a clear danger to international peace and security," el-Sissi said.

It also called on the U.S.-led coalition staging airstrikes against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria to offer Egypt political and material support to counter the group in Libya.

The idea of intervention has gained traction with Italy, whose southern tip is less than 500 miles from the Libyan coast. One of the militants in the video boasted that the group plans to "conquer Rome."

Italian Defense Minister Roberta Pinotti said in an interview published Sunday in the *Il Messaggero* daily that her country was ready to lead a coalition of countries — European and North African — to stop the militants' advance.

"If in Afghanistan we sent 5,000 men, in a country like Libya which is much closer to home, and where the risk of deterioration is much more worrisome for Italy, our mission and commitment could be significant, even numerically," she was quoted as saying.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Suspicion: Rights groups say dozens of civilians killed in strikes

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Pentagon says it has seen no proof that civilians have been killed in more than 2,300 airstrikes on vehicles, gun emplacements, weapons depots and other military targets, including some in urban areas such as Raqqa and Aleppo in Syria.

But a gulf of suspicion has opened between the military and critics in human rights groups, who say dozens of civilians have died as a result of flawed intelligence, errant bombs or poor targeting by the U.S. or its allies.

The issue echoed across the United States this month when the Islamic State said a Jordanian airstrike had killed American hostage Kayla Mueller in a building in Syria. The White House ultimately confirmed Mueller's death, as well as an airstrike on the building cited by the militant group, but said U.S. officials could not validate, and would not investigate, precisely how or where she had died.

U.S. Central Command said last month that it had examined 18 claims of civilian deaths, nine each from Iraq and Syria, and had dismissed 13 as "not credible." It is still reviewing the other five, and has launched formal investigations of three — two in Syria, one in Iraq — that officials found were based on credible evidence.

The military refuses to release details about the attacks under review and what warrants a formal investigation.

Lena Fakih, researcher at Human Rights Watch, has asked Central Command to explain its process. She noted that three Syrian residents told the group that a U.S. cruise missile killed seven women and children in Idlib province on Sept. 23. The military denied any civilian casualties.

"We want their calculations in how they determine whether or not something is credible," Fakih said.

Military officials say those claiming casualties must produce corroborating statements, photographs or other verifiable evidence for claims to be further

investigated. But that sort of proof is often impossible to obtain.

Coalition airstrikes target sites that the militants control and are largely inaccessible to outsiders. Residents may risk torture or death by stepping forward to work with foreigners.

The focal point of the dispute is the CAOC — the Combined Air Operations Center at Al Udeid — a windowless, warehouse-sized, two-story command hub for U.S. and allied military operations against the Islamic State.

The operations floor resembles NASA's mission control center in Houston, with analysts perched behind row after row of glowing computer monitors. Two IMAX-sized screens shimmer on the walls with real-time video from fighter jets and bombers over Iraq and Syria, as well as streaming video from Predator and Reaper drones.

With no U.S. ground troops directing fire from the front lines, the analysts rely on air surveillance and reports from Kurdish fighters and other allies fighting the militants in Iraq and Syria.

Before a major operation, commanders order an intelligence "soak" of the battlefield, using spy planes, drones and satellites for days to try to determine where civilians live and work, and where militants are holed up. Systems also focus on collecting Islamic State cellphone and digital communications.

Analysts pore over the data and determine where, what and when to strike. They select the type of bomb — 500 pounds to 2,000 pounds, laser-guided or GPS-guided — using a computer program called the "weaponizing solution" that they say generates the best coordinates to maximize militant casualties while minimizing potential harm to civilians.

The information is passed to bomber and fighter crews while they're over the war zone. Sumangil, the B-1 squadron commander, said he would let militants escape if there was a risk of civilian casualties.



KARIM KADIM/AP

Followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr attend open-air Friday prayers in the Shiite stronghold of Sadr City in Baghdad.

Iraq's Iran-backed militias lead war vs. Islamic State

By Liz Sly

The Washington Post

MANSOURIYA, Iraq — Shiite militias backed by Iran are increasingly taking the lead in Iraq's fight against the Islamic State, threatening to undermine U.S. strategies intended to bolster the central government, rebuild the Iraqi army and promote reconciliation with the country's embittered Sunni minority.

With an estimated 100,000 to 120,000 men under arms, the militias are rapidly eclipsing the depleted and demoralized Iraqi army, whose fighting strength has dwindled to about 48,000 troops since the government forces were routed in the northern city of Mosul last summer, according to U.S. and Iraqi officials.

A recent offensive against Islamic State militants in the province of Diyala led by the Badr Organization further reinforced the militias' standing as the dominant military force across

a swath of territory stretching from southern Iraq to Kirkuk in the north.

As they assume a greater role, the militias are sometimes resorting to tactics that risk further alienating Sunnis and sharpening the sectarian dimensions of the fight.

They are also entrenching Iran's already substantial hold over Iraq in ways that may prove difficult to reverse. Backed and in some instances armed and funded by Iran, the militias openly proclaim allegiance to Tehran. Many of the groups, such as the powerful Asaib Ahl al-Haq and Kataib Hezbollah, are veterans of the fight to eject American troops in the years before their 2011 departure.

In one telling sign of how far Iraq is sliding into Iran's orbit, giant billboards advertising the militias' prowess and featuring portraits of Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and his successor as supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, now

partially obscure the plinth in central Baghdad where Saddam Hussein's statue stood before U.S. Marines tore it down in 2003.

The militias' growing clout is calling into question the sustainability of a strategy in which U.S. warplanes are bombing from the sky to advance the consolidation of power on the ground by groups that are backed by Iran and potentially hostile to the United States, analysts say.

If the fighting continues on its current trajectory, there is a real risk the United States will defeat the Islamic State but lose Iraq to Iran in the process, said Michael Knights, of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Though Iraq's Prime Minister, Haider Al-Abadi, has welcomed American assistance and is calling for more, the militias' strength threatens to undermine his authority and to turn Iraq into a version of Lebanon, where a weak government is hostage to the whims of the powerful Hezbollah movement.

Boyfriend of US woman killed by Islamic State tried to free her

By FELICIA FONSECA

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Kayla Mueller was in a detention cell in Syria, face to face with her boyfriend, who was posing as her husband. Had she told her captors she was married to Omar Alkhani, she might have been freed from the hands of Islamic State militants, he said. Instead, she denied being his wife.

Her death was confirmed last week by the U.S. government and Mueller's family. In the days since, hundreds of people have gathered to honor her in her home state of Arizona.

Alkhani had persuaded a string of people to let him plead for her release, but he left empty-handed. He said he saw Mueller's face for just a few seconds when guards uncovered it to show it.

The guards told Mueller, 26, that Alkhani would not be harmed if she told the truth, so she apparently stuck to honesty to save him rather than take the slim chance to save herself, he said.

"Since she's American, they would not let her go anyway. No sense to stay here, both of us," Alkhani said. "Maybe she wanted to save me. Maybe she didn't know I came back to save her."

The Syrian space for The Associated Press on Sunday via webcam from Turkey in one of his first interviews, detailing how he met Mueller in 2010 and the last time he saw her in 2013 as a prisoner of the Islamic State group.

Mueller and Alkhani were taken hostage in August 2013 after leaving a Doctors Without Borders hospital in Aleppo, Syria, where he was hired to fix the Internet con-

nection. Mueller had begged him to let her come along so she could see the suffering firsthand and help, despite the dangers of traveling into the war-torn region. He said he agreed reluctantly.

"We argued about it," he said. "In the end, I was afraid if she didn't go with me, she would go with someone else."

Mueller took advantage of an unexpected overnight stay at the hospital when the repairs took longer than expected and asked Syrian women about how they managed daily life. During what should have been a 10-minute trip to the bus station the next day, Mueller, Alkhani, the taxi driver and a fourth person were ambushed at gunpoint and were threatened with death.

Mueller remained a hostage, while Alkhani said he was released 20 days later after being beaten and interrogated about

his work as a photographer, his religion and his relationship to Mueller.

When Alkhani was released, he was told to forget about Mueller.

Alkhani said he has been in touch with Mueller's family and held out hope like they did during her 18 months of captivity that she was alive.

"I didn't realize one day I will receive this call from somebody telling me, 'I am sorry,'" he said.

A spokesperson for Mueller's family said they have no reason to not trust Alkhani's account, and the family believes he loved her and tried to help her. The spokesperson talked to the AP on condition of anonymity because the person works in media relations for other families in Middle East hostage situations and wants to remain anonymous for safety reasons.

NATION

Democrats seeking relief from health law penalties

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The official sign-up season for the health care law may be over, but leading congressional Democrats say millions of Americans facing new tax penalties deserve a second chance.

Three senior House members told The Associated Press that they plan to strongly urge the administration to grant a special sign-up opportunity for uninsured taxpayers who will be facing fines under the law for the first time this year.

The three are Michigan's Senator Levin, the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, and Democratic Reps. Jim McDermott, of Washington,

and Lloyd Doggett, of Texas. All worked to help steer the law through rancorous congressional debates from 2009 to 2010.

The lawmakers say they are concerned that many of their constituents will find out about the penalties after it's already too late for them to sign up for coverage because open enrollment ended Sunday.

That means they could wind up uninsured for another year, only to owe substantially higher fines in 2016. The fines are collected through the income tax system.

This year is the first time ordinary Americans will experience the complicated interactions between the health care law and taxes. Based on congressional analysis, tax preparation giant H&R Block says roughly 4 mil-

lion uninsured people will pay penalties.

The IRS has warned that health care-related issues will make its job harder this filing season and taxpayers should be prepared for long call center hold times, particularly because the GOP-led Congress has been loath to approve more money for the agency.

"Open enrollment period ended before many Americans filed their taxes," the three lawmakers said in a statement. "Without a special enrollment period, many people (who will be paying fines) will not have another opportunity to get health coverage this year."

So far, administration officials have deflected questions about whether an extension will be granted.

Officials trade blame over possible shutdown of Homeland Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner is raising the possibility that the Department of Homeland Security may shut down at month's end because of a budget impasse, and he's blaming Senate Democrats if that happens.

Democrats responded by saying immigration would fall on the Ohio Republican and the country would suffer from the needless closing of a vital part of government.

The department is caught up in a fight over President Barack Obama's immigration actions, with Feb. 27 as the date when the

\$40 billion budget would shut off.

A House-passed bill would cover the department through Sept. 30, the end of the current budget year, and would overturn Obama's move to limit deportations for millions of immigrants who are in the United States illegally.

But in the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has declared a stalemate and urged the House to make the next move. Senate Democrats, while in the minority, have been able to block action on the bill in protest of the Republican language on immigration.

Asked what if the department funding were to run out, Boehner said, "Well, then, Senate Demo-

crats should be to blame. Very simply."

He then told "Fox News Sunday" when asked if he were prepared to let that happen, "Certainly. The House has acted. We've done our job."

Democrats pounced. In linking immigration and the budget, Boehner "knew exactly what he was doing," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

If Boehner persists, Schumer said, "he will be responsible for shutting down a large part of the government, the American people will perceive it that way, and his party and the country will suffer for it."



GREGORY BULL/AP

Former Navy helicopter pilot and San Diego Gas & Electric unmanned aircraft operator Teena Deering holds a drone as it is prepared for takeoff in October near Boulevard, Calif.

FAA proposes rules for commercial drones

By JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Drone on, the government says.

Just not through the night sky. Or close to an airport. Or out of the operator's sight. And probably not winging its way with a pizza or package, anytime soon.

Long-anticipated rules proposed Sunday will open an era in which small (under 55 pounds), commercial, unmanned aircraft perform routine tasks — crop monitoring, aerial photography, inspections of bridges and cell towers, and much more. But not right away. Final rules are probably two to three years away.

When they are in place, they may include a separate category with fewer restrictions for very small drones, likely to be defined as less than 44 pounds.

The Federal Aviation Administration released a variety of proposed requirements for commercial operators to meet, such as passing a knowledge test administered by the agency as well as a federal security check. The small drones could travel as fast as 100 mph, at altitudes of 500 feet or

lower. Flights over people other than those involved in the drone's operation would be prohibited.

"We have tried to be flexible in writing these rules," said FAA Administrator Michael Huerta. "We want to maintain today's outstanding level of aviation safety without placing an undue regulatory burden on an emerging industry."

The agency is researching technology that he hopes will eventually enable small drones to fly safely beyond the sight of operators, Huerta said. He emphasized that introduction of commercial drones into the national airspace will be a staged process. The government is also looking ahead to how larger drones might be allowed to fly in airspace shared by manned aircraft, for example, he said.

One of the key safety concerns is that without a human on board, the ability to "see and avoid" other aircraft is limited. Another concern is that the link between the operator and a remote control aircraft can be broken, causing the drone to fly away until it loses power or collides with something.

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NATION

Family slaying in Ky. baffles

BY ADAM BEAM
AND BRUCE SCHREINER
The Associated Press

CORBIN, Ky. — Friends and relatives of a 16-year-old boy killed in a shootout with police in Maryland struggled to understand how the faithful churchgoer and high school ROTC student could end up as the suspect in the slaying of his parents and younger sister in Kentucky.

Jason Hendrix was suspected of killing his family execution-style last week before fleeing his small Southern town to the East Coast, authorities said Sunday. Saturday's shootout led police to search the teen's home more than 500 miles away in Corbin, Ky. There, authorities found the bodies of Kevin and Sarah Hendrix and their daughter, Grace, about age 12, Corbin Police Chief David Campbell said.

Police said they believe the vic-



ADAM BEAM/AP

Yellow tape surrounds a home in southeast Kentucky on Sunday where a family was found slain. Officials suspect Jason Hendrix, 16, killed his family execution-style last week.

tims were gunned down Wednesday afternoon, Campbell said. Jason Hendrix then fled in his parent's car, armed with four weapons and a backpack full of ammunition, Campbell said.

"Right now, all the evidence points toward him as being the shooter," the chief said.

Police didn't know why the suspect decided to flee to the East Coast. The family had no relatives in Baltimore, Campbell said.

"We have no clue why he went up there," the chief said.

Police also found a gas receipt showing that the teen had been in New Jersey on Thursday. Baltimore County Police said the teenager shot and wounded a police officer Saturday after crashing the parent's green Honda Pilot into a silver sedan. At least six officers opened fire on Hendrix, who was pronounced dead at the scene. Maryland State Police said they initially sought to pull Hendrix over Saturday for a speeding violation.

Campbell said the teenager was angry at his parents for taking

away his computer privileges days before the slayings. "The mother had talked to a co-worker and told her that he was really mad about that," the chief said.

The father, wearing a sport coat and tie from work, was shot twice in the head, Campbell said. He added that the mother was shot twice in the face and the girl twice in the head and once in the arm.

Jason Hendrix met up with friends at church that Wednesday evening and showed no signs of distress. "They said he was just like he usually is," Campbell said.

Drew Mahan, the founding pastor of Forward Community Church which the Hendrixes attended, said officers questioned him extensively about Jason on Saturday night after discovering the bodies. Hendrix would arrive at the theater every Sunday at 7 a.m. to help set up the church's equipment and was baptized at a service in December, he said.

"People want to ask questions. Why? How? I simply looked at folks today and said, 'I don't know,'" Mahan said.

2 sentenced for gun smuggling

Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — They were hidden inside exercise machines. But the secret payloads weren't for working out. They were for arming South American drug lords.

Two Central Florida brothers were recently sentenced in Orlando, Fla., for their roles in an unusual gun-smuggling plot.

Nelson Cartagena, 41, and Dairo Cartagena, 38, both of Rockledge, Fla., smuggled military-style rifles and other firearms inside motor housings of exercise machines shipped to Colombia, federal authorities said.

Many of the guns went to an unknown drug cartel in that country, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida.

Orlando-based U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway sentenced the elder Cartagena to 15 years

in federal prison. His younger brother got five years and three months behind bars.

Two others who pleaded guilty for their roles in this case are set for sentencing on March 5.

Court documents show the brothers bought firearms from November 2013 to July 2014. They purchased them from federally licensed dealers and private sellers at Central Florida gun shows, the U.S. Attorney's Office said.

The intercepted shipments included military-style rifles, pistols that shoot .223 caliber armor-piercing rifle rounds and a variety of 9 mm pistols, records allege.

"Based on evidence collected during the investigation, agents estimated that more than 100 firearms were purchased by the brothers and sent to Colombia during this conspiracy," records say.

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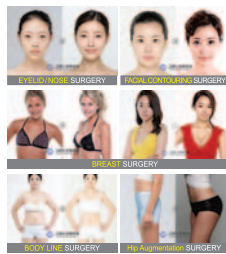
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Latest in a 'biblical' string of snowstorms slams Northeast

BY ALANNA DURKIN
AND MICHAEL MELIA
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Another weekend, another major snowstorm. The latest system to sweep the Northeast brought another foot to Boston — on top of 6 feet that has fallen over the last month — and tested New Englanders who say the winter is beginning to feel like one without end.

Even after the storm, forecasters warned of exceptionally cold air, perhaps the coldest in years. Strong winds that were expected to continue into Monday reduced visibility, created drifts and complicated an ongoing cleanup effort. Forecasters were talking about another storm on the horizon for midweek.

"It's historic. It's biblical," attorney Frank Libby said as he walked down a desolate street in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood. "I think we're in uncharted territory. People just don't know how to deal with the logistics of it."

He had one message for Mother Nature: "Give us a break." A bone-chilling blast of cold, with lows of minus 10 degrees,



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

A woman walks through blowing snow in Boston on Monday.

was in the Sunday night forecast in parts of the region. The temperatures are expected to be the coldest of the season, according to the National Weather Service.

"We're dropping below zero, and wind chills will be dropping to 20 below and maybe minus 25 by morning," said National Weather

Service meteorologist Bill Simpson. "People should take it seriously. It is the coldest in Massachusetts in many years."

The Arctic cold front already had settled over Michigan by midday Sunday, sending temperatures plunging to minus 27 in the Upper Peninsula.

Some areas of New England recorded nearly 2 feet of snow from the storm, including Acushnet, Mass., with 22 inches, and Salisbury, with 20.5 inches. Boston recorded 13 inches of new snow. At the easternmost tip of Maine, Lubechad had 2 feet.

With many intersections already clogged by scoring snowbanks, forces mobilized before the storm to remove piles of snow. Massachusetts called up National Guard troops to help, and Hanscom Air Force base outside Boston became a staging area for heavy equipment piling in from eight other Northeast states.

Although the storm did not bring the eye-popping snow totals of others this season, it made its presence felt with lightning strikes and strong winds that left visibility close to zero for stretches along the coast.

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WORLD

After attacks, Europe rejects calls for mass immigration of Jews

By LORI HINNANT
The Associated Press

PARIS — Despite desecrated Jewish graves in France and a deadly attack at a synagogue in Copenhagen, European leaders on Monday rejected calls from the Israeli prime minister for a mass immigration of the continent's Jews, urging unity instead.

Hundreds of Jewish tombstones were found vandalized in eastern France on Sunday, hours after a Danish Jew guarding a synagogue in Copenhagen was shot to death. Frenchmen have been accused of three deadly attacks on Jewish sites since 2012 — one at a school in the southern city of Toulouse, another at a museum in Brussels and finally one at a kosher market last month. Twelve people died in total.

"We know there are doubts, questions across the community," French President Francois Hollande said Monday. "I will not just let what was said in Israel pass, leading people to believe that Jews no longer have a place in Europe and in France in particular."

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls also said Monday that the government would defend French Jews against what he described

as "Islamofascism."

"A Jew who leaves France is a piece of France that is gone," Valls told RTL radio.

In 2014, more than 7,000 French Jews in a community estimated at around 500,000 left for Israel, more than double the number for 2013.

The Israeli Cabinet on Sunday approved a \$46 million plan to encourage still more Jewish immigration from France, Belgium and Ukraine.

The exodus from France accelerated after the March 2012 attacks by Mohammed Merah, who stormed a Jewish school in Toulouse, killing three children and a rabbi.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that at a time of rising anti-Semitism in Europe, Israel is the only place where Jews can truly feel safe.

"This wave of attacks is expected to continue," Netanyahu told his Cabinet. "Jews deserve security in every country, but we say to our Jewish brothers and sisters, Israel is your home."

Netanyahu's comments triggered an angry response from Copenhagen's chief rabbi, Jair Melchior, who said he was "disappointed" by them.



PETR DAVID JOSEK/AP

A Ukrainian soldier rests on his vehicle Monday near the road between the towns of Debal'tseve and Artemivsk, Ukraine.

Battle persists in Ukraine despite cease-fire accord

By PETR JOSEK
The Associated Press

LUHANSKE, Ukraine — Intense artillery exchanges between Ukrainian government forces and Russia-backed separatists persisted Monday around a strategic town in eastern Ukraine — fighting that threatens to dash a cease-fire deal brokered by European leaders last week.

Under a cease-fire agreement negotiated by the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France, the warring sides are to begin withdrawing heavy weapons from the front line Tuesday. That plan already looks at risk, with the rebels saying they are not satisfied that conditions are in place for the process to go ahead. Associated Press reporters in Luhanske, a government-held town 9 miles northwest of the bitterly contested railway hub of Debal'tseve, heard sustained shelling Monday. Some of the artillery appeared to be outgoing, suggesting

it was being fired by Ukrainian troops.

Debal'tseve, still in government hands, remains in contention despite the cease-fire. The rebels insist the town should revert to their control because they have encircled it. A loaded Grad rocket launcher was seen pointing in the direction of Debal'tseve, but it was not fired while AP journalists were present.

Observers from the Organization from Security and Cooperation in Europe, who are supposed to monitor the cease-fire, said Sunday that separatists denied them access to Debal'tseve.

Despite the cease-fire that went into effect early Sunday morning, five Ukrainian troops were killed and 25 were wounded in the past 24 hours, Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said Monday.

Separatist military official Eduard Basurin said in a televised news conference Monday that the

government overnight lobbed artillery at Horlivka, a town under rebel control.

Ukraine, however, blamed that attack on the rebels. The government-appointed police chief of the Donetsk region, Vyacheslav Abroskin, said the separatists shelled the town in order to derail the truce.

The cease-fire appeared to hold elsewhere. The city hall of the rebel capital Donetsk, which came under heavy artillery fire in the past week, said on Monday that there was no fighting in the area.

Ukraine and the West accuse Russia of arming and supplying manpower to the separatists and have imposed a range of economic sanctions to pressure Moscow into changing its course. Russia denies all suggestions it is directly involved in the war in Ukraine but the sheer amount of heavy weapons the rebels have belies that claim.



CHRISTIAN LUTZ/AP

Police officers investigate the site of defaced tombstones Monday at the Jewish cemetery of Sarre-Union, eastern France, where hundreds of graves have been vandalized.

Danish PM says Copenhagen gunman not part of wider cell

By JAN M. OLSEN
AND KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — A Danish court on Monday jailed two suspected accomplices of the slain gunman behind the deadly attacks in Copenhagen while the prime minister said there were no signs of links to a wider terrorist network.

Danes mourned the two victims of the country's first fatal terrorist attacks in 30 years, while some also put flowers at the spot where police killed the gunman.

The suspects arraigned Monday were accused of helping the gunman evade authorities and getting rid of a weapon during the manhunt that ended early Sunday when the attacker was killed in a shootout with a SWAT team, said Michael Juul Eriksen, the defense attorney for one of the two suspects.

Prosecutors had asked a judge to place them in four weeks of solitary confinement and the relatively short period of detention — 10 days in custody — suggests the case against the men is "thin," added Juul Eriksen's as-

sistant, Anders Rohde.

Rohde was speaking to reporters after a four-hour custody hearing held behind closed doors for the men, who were not named.

Two people were killed in the weekend attacks, including a Danish filmmaker attending a free speech event and a Jewish security guard shot in the head outside a synagogue in Copenhagen. Five police officers were wounded in the attacks. Police said Monday they are in good condition and are expected to be released from the hospital this week.

Authorities have not identified the gunman, but have described him as a 22-year-old Dane with a history of violence and gang connections. Denmark's security service said he may have been inspired by the terrorist attacks by Islamic extremists in Paris that killed 17 people.

Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt told reporters Monday that the gunman's choice of targets suggests the attacks were acts of terrorism.

"We have no indication at this stage that he was part of a cell," she said. "But we will of course

in the coming time evaluate our fight against radicalization. We are already doing a lot."

Investigators on Monday released more information about the gunman's movements between the attacks.

Police spokesman Joergen Skov said the gunman visited an Internet cafe late Saturday, about 6½ hours after the first attack. Police raided the facility on Sunday and detained four people, including the two men arraigned on Monday, Skov said. The other two were released.

WORLD

Boko Haram threatens wider war

BY KRISTA LARSON
The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — The Nigeria-based terrorist group Boko Haram issued a new threat Monday against neighboring countries Niger and Chad, warning the fighters were prepared to carry out suicide bombings in the countries sending troops to help fight the extremists.

In a translation published by the SITE Intelligence Group, the terrorist group sharply criticized Niger for joining the effort and said the country was being dragged into a "swamp of darkness."

Over the last 10 days, Boko Haram fighters have repeatedly struck the town of Diffa but not the capital.

"If you insist on continuing the aggression and the coalition with the government of Chad, then we give you glad tidings that the land of Niger is easier than the land of Nigeria and moving the war to the depth of your cities will be the first reaction toward any aggression that occurs after this statement," Boko Haram said, according to SITE's transcript.

The Boko Haram statement also said the group had martyrdom-seekers "waiting the commands" to launch suicide attacks.

The new threat comes as officials from Niger and other neighboring countries meet in the capital of Cameroon to plot a joint military offensive against Boko Haram. The multinational force to fight Boko Haram is expected to be formally launched in coming weeks.

The terrorist group has fought a five-year insurgency against Nigeria's government, leaving 10,000 people dead last year alone. It began stepping up its attacks against neighboring Cameroon, Niger and Chad earlier this year as those countries all have pledged to send military support.



A Nigerian soldier stands guard during Eid al-Fitr celebrations in Maiduguri, Nigeria, in August 2013. Nigeria's military on Saturday repelled an attack by Boko Haram Islamic extremists who have issued threats against neighboring amid its five-year insurgency.

Hopes low for new talks on Greece bailout

BY LORNE COOK
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Greece and its European creditors fresh talks on Monday over the country's request to ease its bailout terms, but expectations for a quick deal are low despite a fast-approaching deadline.

Optimism was curbed by German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble, who said he's "very skeptical" that a solution can be found at the meeting in Brussels.

Volatile Greek shares were down 3.6 percent in midday trading, while the eurozone's Euro Stoxx 50 index shed 0.1 percent.

"Greece must see that you can't keep living above your means and then keep making promises for how others should pay even more," Schäuble told Deutschlandfunk radio.

Athens wants a substantial easing in the terms of repayment of its 240 billion euros (currently \$273 billion) in rescue loans, which it has received from other countries that use the euro and the International Monetary Fund, as well as less budget austerity.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras won elections on Jan. 25 on a vow to end the belt-tightening policies that the country has been demanded to make to reduce public debt — but which have also caused the economy to shrink by a quarter and unemployment to soar above 25 percent.

Tsipras wants to scrap the existing bailout deal and replace it with a new one. In the meantime, he wants a short-term "bridge agreement" that can keep Greece solvent after



A pedestrian passes anti-austerity graffiti in Athens on Monday. Greece's government and its European creditors are heading into new talks on the country's debt bailout.

Feb. 28, when the current bailout deals ends.

Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis and the chairman of the 19-nation eurozone, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, declined to speak to reporters as they arrived at European Union headquarters in Brussels some four hours ahead of the meeting's scheduled start time.

Germany's Schäuble said Athens was in no position to make demands.

"I feel sorry for the Greeks," he said. "They've elected a government that's behaving pretty irresponsibly at the moment."

His comments came after technical talks in Brussels on Friday and Saturday, which an EU spokeswoman summarized as "an exchange of views."

Lurid testimony delivers shocks, but little evidence

The Associated Press

LILLE, France — Dominique Strauss-Kahn has testified to having orgies while he was managing the world financial crisis, to being "rough" with his sexual "conquests," and to needing sex with exceptional frequency. But no obvious evidence has emerged during a prostitution trial in northern France that Strauss-Kahn did anything illegal.

As the trial enters its third and final week, it is looking increasingly likely that the onetime presidential contender will walk away with a clean criminal record.

Strauss-Kahn, one of 14 people on trial, is accused of aggravated pimping over a series of sex parties in France, Washington and Brussels while he was leading the International Monetary Fund, and was married.

He insists he didn't know the women involved were prostitutes. Two of his co-defendants say they recruited and paid the women themselves and built a wall of silence to ensure that Strauss-Kahn wasn't aware.

Even the prosecutor didn't think there was enough of a case against Strauss-Kahn, and argued in 2011 against including him in the trial. Under French law, investigating judges can override prosecutors' recommendations and send someone to trial anyway, which they did with Strauss-Kahn.

He faces up to 10 years in prison and \$1.7 million in fines if convicted. But prosecutor Frederic Fevre could argue for acquittal for Strauss-Kahn during closing arguments Tuesday, focusing instead on getting convictions for other defendants accused in a large prostitution ring out of the Hotel Carlton in Lille.

UN official expresses hope for talks on Mali

ALGIERS, Algeria — The U.N. representative to Mali expressed hope for the latest round of peace talks set to begin Monday between the warring factions in the country.

The talks which first began in Algiers in September are between Mali's government, a series of separatist rebel groups based in the north, and government-allied militias. Some fighting has reignited between the rival groups and in some cases even U.N. peacekeepers.

"This meeting represents an historic chance for a lasting peace in Mali," said Mongi Hamdi, the head of the U.N. mission in Mali. Hamdi said the recent fighting was a source of "serious worry."

Homeless line up for free shaves at Vatican

VATICAN CITY — Homeless men and women lined up Monday off St. Peter's Square to take advantage of Pope Francis' latest charitable initiative: a free shave and shower for the least fortunate.

Mauro Casubolo, 49, was one of the first clients as the pope's barbershop opened in the public restrooms just off the Bernini Colonnade. His chin was still red from the shave — his first in three weeks — but he was grateful.

Barbers volunteering on their days off as well as students from a local beauty school are donating their time, as well as some sisters from religious orders and other volunteers.

Liberian students back after Ebola closings

MONROVIA, Liberia — Students in Liberia began returning to the classroom Monday after a six-month closure during the Ebola epidemic that left thousands dead in this West African country.

In the capital, lines formed outside entrances where returning students' temperatures were being taken. Ebola's main symptom is a high fever, and only those who are sick can spread the deadly virus.

Deputy Education Minister Remses Kumbuyah said more than 5,000 kits were distributed to schools that included thermometers and chlorine for hand-washing.

S. Korean official is OK'd amid wrangling

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's ruling party-controlled legislature on Monday approved President Park Geun-hye's choice for prime minister following fierce political wrangling over whether he's fit for the country's No. 2 job.

The unicameral National Assembly approved the appointment of Lee Wan Koo in a 148-128 vote Monday. Five lawmakers abstained.

Outgoing Prime Minister Chung Hong-won offered to resign after a ferry sinking that killed more than 300 people last April to take responsibility for the disaster, but two possible replacements abandoned their nominations because of questions over past behavior, forcing Park to retain him.

From The Associated Press

WORLD



COURTESY OF LI YUE/Provided to The Washington Post

Li Yue and her husband, Zhao Liyun, sit with daughters Dou Dou, left, and You You at the Beijing Zoo on Jan. 17.

Chinese couples lukewarm over easing of family-planning policy

By SIMON DENYER
The Washington Post

BEIJING — When China announced it was relaxing its one-child policy in late 2013, marketing director Kang Lu chatted with her husband about whether they wanted a second baby.

"But given our current circumstances, we quickly abandoned the idea," she said. "It wasn't a tough decision."

They weren't alone. So far, a good number of Chinese families have been less than enthusiastic about the partial relaxation of the policy, choosing to stick with one child, often for practical and economic reasons, but also because decades of government propaganda have convinced them that one child really is best.

Experts say this only underlines a looming demographic crisis in China: Low fertility rates, a rapidly aging population and a shrinking labor force will inevitably put immense strains on the economy in the decades ahead, and on the government's ability to pay people's pensions. It is so severe a problem that some experts predict it ultimately could threaten the legitimacy of Communist Party rule.

Yet for many urban couples in modern China, having a second child is no longer an attractive option.

There are no kindergartens here for children younger than 3, while the market for nannies is unregulated, and tales of neglect are rife. Kang's parents had moved to Beijing for three years to help look after her first child, a girl, but now feel too old to help. Kang also has ambitions for advancing her career, but was

faced with the prospect of giving up those ambitions — or giving up her job entirely — to care for a second child. In Beijing's soaring housing market, Kang and her husband certainly couldn't afford a larger apartment, which they figured they would need if they had a boy. And they were worried that the capital's smoggy air could affect a new baby's health.

"The joy and happiness my daughter brought us is worth anything," she said. "I am 36 and I know this could be my last chance to have another baby. But I very much doubt the joy of having another baby would outweigh these practical obstacles."

"Besides, I am an only child," she said. "In my mind, one child is good enough."

China's controversial one-child policy was introduced in 1980 but was relaxed partially just more than a year ago amid mounting fears of an aging population and a shrinking labor force.

Under the new rules, a couple in China is allowed a second child if either parent was an only child. A rural couple can have a second if the first child is a girl.

The new policy was rolled out around the country during 2014, with Beijing one of the first provinces to relax the rules. Still, only 6.7 percent of eligible couples in the capital applied for permission to have second children in the 10 months since the rules changed. Nationally, take-up was higher, but with fewer than 1 million couples applying, it was still below government forecasts.

The data reflect how a combination of the one-child policy, rapid urbanization and rising incomes have dramatically reduced fertility rates in China. That may have

Experts say low fertility rates, a rapidly aging population and a shrinking labor force will inevitably put immense strains on China's economy in the decades ahead.

stabilized the country's population, but it has brought in its wake a whole new set of problems. As its population ages, China is racing toward a "demographic precipice," said Wang Feng, a professor of sociology at the University of California at Irvine, predicting a crisis so deep that it could challenge the legitimacy of the Communist Party, itself.

The nation's fertility rate, of 1.4 children per woman, is way below that of the United States and the developed world average, and will lead inexorably to a rapid aging of society. That means a substantial decline in the supply of young labor to power the economy, and a rapidly escalating number of old people.

As the economy slows, government revenue growth will slow, even as the financial burden from the elderly rises. Sooner or later, he said, that means the government will simply run out of money to pay for pensions, or to finance growing health care costs.

"This challenges the legitimacy of the political system, which claims to be able to do this kind of thing," Wang said. "And I am not talking about the long and dis-

tant future — I am really talking about the next 10 or 15 years."

China's working population fell for a third straight year in 2014, declining by 3.7 million to 916 million people, according to data released last month, in a trend that is expected to accelerate in years ahead. Meanwhile, the number of people 60 and older will approach 400 million, or a quarter of the population, in the early 2030s, according to United Nations forecasts, from one-seventh now.

In December, a group of more than 50 leading demographers came together in Shanghai to appeal for further relaxation in family planning policy, though experts say that even a total abandonment of the one-child policy tomorrow would do nothing to relieve the problem for decades.

Yet the government is dragging its feet, unable to completely turn its back on a policy that has empowered (and often enriched) thousands of often-corrupt officials for decades.

Mao Qun'an, the chief spokesman for the government's National Health and Family Planning Commission, maintains that the size of China's population is still a more pressing problem than the fact that it is aging. Those who say otherwise, he said, "have malicious intentions to damage the Chinese government in the name of birth control." Family planning policy would be relaxed further over time, but the government had no timetable in mind.

Wang said the spokesman is "deeply trapped in the outdated belief in birth control." He complains that "incompetent, irresponsible and unaccountable officials" refuse to change a policy

that has caused untold misery and soon will have serious economic and political consequences.

Birth rates in East Asia are generally low, demographers point out, and an aging population has already emerged as a problem in Japan. In China, families' driving ambitions for their offspring to succeed means many parents are happier to concentrate on a single child.

"My husband and I provide everything we can for our daughter," Kang said. "We pay for her to go to her favorite ballet class. We plan to send her overseas when she grows up. But if we had another baby, I don't think we could do all this for both of them."

In contrast, freelance writer Li Yue had a second baby by accident. Conceived before the policy was relaxed, she was lucky that the baby was born after the rules changed, and she escaped a heavy fine. But she still did not escape society's disapproval.

"Many people have been brainwashed by one-child policy propaganda, including my mom," she said. "When I told her I was having a second child, she thought it was unacceptable. She didn't call me or talk to me for a month."

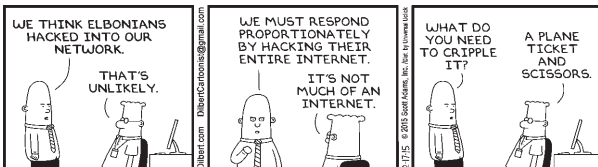
Li said she was an only child, as were all of her six cousins, and they all used to believe one child was best.

"Before my first daughter came into the world, I only planned to have one baby. But when I saw my daughter, the joy, the happiness made me want to have more babies," she said. "Now, my mom loves my younger daughter very much. She has moved to our place to help look after her. And she has even started to persuade other people to have a second child."

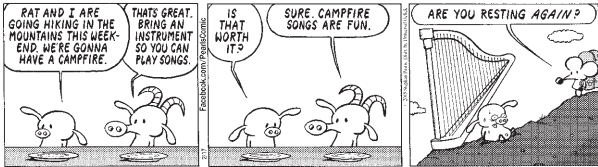
Frazz



Dilbert



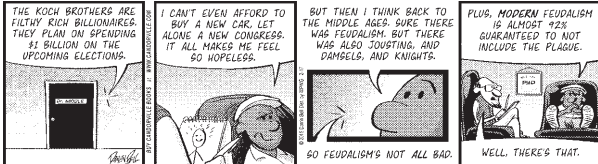
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



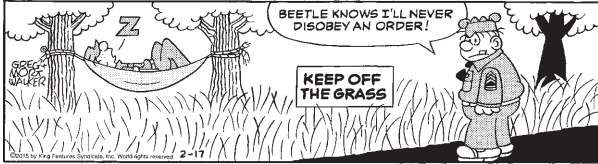
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



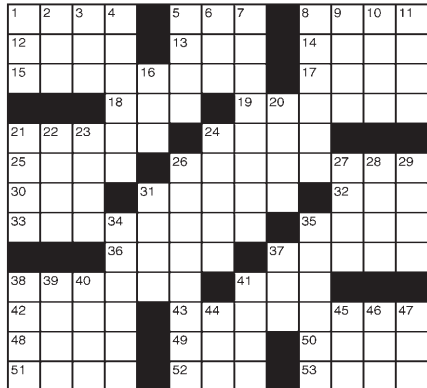
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Slightly
- 5 — -CIO
- 8 Applaud
- 12 Portrayal
- 13 "The Raven" writer
- 14 Ship's framework
- 15 Impudent
- 17 Vicinity
- 18 Fenway squad, for short
- 19 Lustrious cotton
- 21 Bo-Peep's charges
- 24 Cellar, in real estate ads
- 25 Get wind of
- 26 Kuala Lumpur's land
- 30 Go astray
- 31 "— isn't so!"
- 32 Luau dish
- 33 Misused word
- 35 Potter's prop
- 36 Capital of Azerbaijan
- 37 Logic
- 38 Flourishes
- 41 Tackle moguls
- 42 Dalai —
- 43 Hogwash
- 48 Finished
- 49 Khan title
- 50 Eat in style
- 51 Make one's way

DOWN

- 1 Branch
- 2 Slithery squeezer
- 3 Under the weather
- 4 Riddle
- 5 Pinnacle
- 6 Supporting
- 7 Spills the beans
- 8 Talkative
- 9 Enticement
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Blueprint
- 16 Burst
- 20 Latin 101 word
- 21 Son of Noah
- 22 Queen of Olympus
- 23 Countercurrent
- 24 Ronstadt's "Blue —"
- 26 Sharpshooter
- 27 Bridge
- 28 Charged bits
- 29 Staffer
- 31 Unwanted email
- 34 On the boat
- 35 Kook
- 37 Reggae relative
- 38 Huff and puff
- 39 Wash
- 40 Portent
- 41 Cabbage salad
- 44 Past
- 45 Tyke
- 46 Conclusion
- 47 "Certainly"

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-17

CRYPTOQUIP

ZCY GAZTCYS NUF RP ZI
TIRTITZ F PZYB BMZC ZCY
FRMXFUP' BFPZY NFSZP. M'X
PASY MZ'UU GY IVVFU.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE TWO STEAKS ON THE GRILL GOT INTO A BAD ARGUMENT, DO YOU THINK THEY WERE EMBROIDERED?
Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals L

WORLD



HAVANA THROUGH NEW EYES

For first-time visitor, Cuban capital is charming, complicated

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

HAVANA — Everyone warns you Old Havana is a facade, but it's impossible not to be taken by its charms.

In my hotel room, the soft sound of guitars enters from the balcony. In the cobblestone street below, I enjoy a cigar and watch a teenage girl introduce her boyfriend to her parents as they sit on a bench and pass a cigarette back and forth. Everyone moves in slow motion.

The area is greener than I imagined, with trees sprouting sideways from oblong squares. Women stand guard in impossibly narrow doorways. Men play handball in the hollowed-out courtyard of one of the city's countless crumbled edifices. Tapas bars fill in the cracks.

For a foreigner who isn't coming with predetermined notions of Cuba as global boogeyman or socialist paradise, each alley and avenue, each conversation with a Cuban, complicates the picture.

I'm nowhere near the first Westerner, American or journalist to visit Havana — and I know it. But I want to make sense of the place.

Many more like me could soon embark on this voyage. Although hundreds of thousands of Cuban-Americans make the trip each year and the intrepid traveler always finds a way in, the U.S. embargo has blocked countless more from visiting a country just 90 miles south of Florida.

President Barack Obama's decision in December to improve relations with Cuba and ease trade and travel rules to the island has changed all of that. The U.S. government insists only certain groups of Americans may visit Cuba, but the elimination of a pre-authorization process means just about anyone can come.

Some of Cuba's contradictions are immediately apparent.

In the Plaza Vieja, a Paul & Shark boutique sells sweaters for as much as a doctor here makes in months. The city offers new bars and restaurants. Some of

the best, I'm told, belong to people with connections to the communist government or access to expatriate cash, or both.

Propaganda is pervasive, though tame. The murals are worn and sometimes entirely rubbed out, leaving tones of delicate ochre across building walls where more of Fidel Castro's citations and Che Guevara's portraits once stood.

In the 16th-century Plaza de Armas, an elderly man offers me Associated Press Wirephoto prints from the 1950s along with other relics of Fulgencio Batista's period in power, along with the usual knick-knacks of the revolution. A minute later, a young man approaches and tells me has "nice girls" for sale.

Uneven signs of modernization are everywhere.

The main thoroughfares are well paved. State-of-the-art pedestrian signals are installed, providing a second-by-second countdown. They cut through neighborhoods ranging from ramshackle glory to the plain



AP

People ride a Ural Soviet motorcycle in Havana in October.

shabby, where buildings strain to stand. At Havana's old port, the halls lie bare and ghostly, a heaping mass of decrepit iron.

Iconic yesteryear Fords, Dodges and Chevs parade the boulevards, along with humbler Russian-made cars of the post-revolution era. There are plenty of new cars, too, though you have to wonder where they all come from. The official price of a Peugeot can reach \$250,000.

Driving around, you see the magical and the mundane of Cuba's capital. Along with the grand hotels once frequented by Frank Sinatra and Ernest Hemingway, there are schools, athletic centers and countless public places where people gather.

Everyone speaks of family in Florida and New York, or even Oregon. There is no sense of "us" and "them." My driver's daughter and granddaughter live in Miami. At Santy's, a swanky fish joint, an

ascot-wearing guitarist talks of his son who reached the United States by raft. He says his son is Ojani Noa, the first husband of American singer Jennifer Lopez.

The U.S. government often hails the entrepreneurial spirit of Cubans. It doesn't come naturally to all of them. A taxi driver takes me to the upscale Vedado neighborhood one evening and can't break the equivalent of a \$20 bill. In fact, he has no money on him whatsoever. The customer, he says, should have exact change.

If you ask about politics, the response often starts with a deep breath or shrug. Cubans are mostly interested in economic improvement, one invariably hears, and an intangible "normal" in their lives.

Along the seaside promenade, the Malecon, groups of teenagers enjoy the evening air. Lovers embrace. The police are everywhere.

SHIFTING GEARS

Car dealers face buyers armed with smartphones

Car dealers must come to terms with the growing number of young consumers who will research and choose their vehicles through their smartphones.

ANTON QVOTZKOV/Fotolia

By GREG GARDNER
Detroit Free Press

DETROIT — Billy Franklin recently bought a 2007 Chevrolet Suburban for \$14,900 through eBay on his Android phone while eating dinner at Red Lobster.

The seller was in Brooklyn. Franklin, 38, and his wife were so satisfied with the deal that they stayed a couple nights in the Garment District, walked around Central Park and visited a couple decent restaurants. It was their first trip to the Big Apple.

No dealer. No test drive. No negotiating.

"That's the first time I've bought a vehicle sight unseen," Franklin said.

This is a pretty good time to be a car dealer. Americans

bought 16.4 million new and 41 million used cars and trucks last year. Both numbers are expected to grow this year.

But a growing number of consumers are shopping and choosing their vehicles online, especially on mobile devices. McKinsey, the global consulting firm, released a study last year that found that customers physically visit an average of 1.6 dealerships before buying, down from five a decade ago.

Four of every five prospective car buyers compare prices and cars from an average of 10 dealerships. They go to third-party sites such as TrueCar, AutoTrad-

er.com, Edmunds.com, eBay Motors and Dealer.com.

AutoTrader found that half of millennials — those born after 1980 — who bought cars last year used their phone or tablets.

Conversion of online lookers into buyers is essential for dealers if they are to succeed in the increasingly digital retail environment.

Franchise laws may protect dealers from maverick entrepreneurs like Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk, who wants to sell his luxury electric cars only from company-owned stores.

But there's no protection from technology that is transforming auto retailing faster than ever.

The challenge for TrueCar, Dealer.com, AutoTrader.com and eBay Motors is to convince traditional dealers that online services are effective tools, not competitors out to take sales away from them.

"We are not a retailer. We are a channel," said Bryan Murphy, general manager of eBay Motors, which can connect dealers with 155 million eBay users worldwide. "What differentiates us is scale. We can bring customers to a dealership regardless of geography."

"We just sold a \$1 million Bugatti here in the U.S. to a guy in Dubai."

Overlaying these new online opportunities is the explosion in personal data. Dealers and their online partners have access to a customer's credit history, income,

insurance history and an array of information that may not be relevant to the process of buying a car.

The mission of Jason Barrie, a senior director for market performance with Dealertrack Technologies, is to streamline the process at the end of buying a car when the consumer sits down with a finance and insurance specialist and signs a small pile of documents.

By shopping a prospective sales across Dealertrack's database of 1,500 lenders, Barrie predicts automakers, dealers and lenders will soon customize incentives

based on what they know about the buyer.

For example, someone with a 770 credit score and two other fully-paid-off vehicles in his driveway will get a larger rebate or a lower interest rate on an identically equipped model than someone with a 700 credit score from a less affluent ZIP code.

Joe Laszlo, 42, a telecommuni-

cations manager in Duluth, Ga., bought a 2014 Ford Flex XLE primarily with two smartphones, except for negotiating the trade-in value of his 2006 Chevrolet Suburban and taking delivery of the Flex.

What advice would he offer first-time online car buyers?

"If you do go to a dealership, make sure your phone is fully charged," Laszlo said.

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US MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SALES IN GERMANY & ITALY

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man accused of posing as fake twin over tickets

NJ ROCHELLE PARK — A New Jersey man posed as his fictitious, blind twin brother in a bid to delay court hearings on several motor vehicle summonses, according to authorities.

Olawale Agoro, of Hackensack, now faces charges of hindering apprehension, false swearing and resisting arrest.

Agoro received five summonses during a July 31 traffic stop, Rochelle Park police said. During a September court appearance, authorities said Agoro, 58, claimed to be his twin brother, "Tony."

Suspicious of the claims, the officer who issued the tickets saw Agoro driving later that day and issued him three more tickets.

Agoro then allegedly twice got adjournments after "Tony" sought them from court clerks, claiming that Agoro was in Nigeria mourning the death of their father. A warrant was issued for his arrest last week after he failed to appear at court hearing.

Agoro came to court the next day, and once again claimed he was "Tony." The court clerks became suspicious and contacted authorities, who determined that "Tony" really was Agoro. "Tony" was unable to produce any identification, and police matched a birthmark under his lip to the photo on Agoro's driver's license, authorities said.

Coast Guard rescues lost snowmobilers

OH CLEVELAND — The U.S. Coast Guard led a man and his teenage daughter back to the Lake Erie shoreline and safety in western Ohio after they became disoriented while snowmobiling during a snow squall.

The 18-year-old daughter called 911 about 5:30 p.m. Saturday after she and her father became lost traveling on snowmobile between South Bass Island and Catawba Island.

Coast Guard personnel from Detroit used an airboat and a helicopter to find the pair by pinging a cellphone to locate them. The father and daughter had taken shelter in an ice-fishing shanty on the lake while awaiting help. The daughter rode in the airboat back to shore while the father followed on his snowmobile. Neither was injured.

Resort offers asylum to Punxsutawney Phil

NH GILFORD — The groundhog jokes continue in snowy New Hampshire, where there appears to be no end to winter.

A ski resort is offering asylum to Punxsutawney Phil after a poke in Merrimack posted a gag on Facebook looking for the Pennsylvania groundhog who predicted six more weeks of winter.

A spokesman for the Gunstock Mountain Resort in Gilford said Saturday that the resort is enjoying a great winter and is concerned with "the sensationalist and one-upsmanship of America's true winter heroes."

THE CENSUS

\$7.5M

The amount of a settlement a New York county has agreed to pay a Brooklyn native who spent 26 years in prison after being wrongfully convicted of killing a 92-year-old woman. The Dutchess County Legislature on Tuesday approved the funds for the settlement with Dewey Bozella, 55, of Beacon, who was convicted in 1983 of murdering Emma Craspen in Poughkeepsie.



NICK TOMCEK, (FORT WALTON BEACH) NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Taking the plunge

Participants in the Penguin Plunge to benefit the EOD Warrior Foundation run into the Gulf of Mexico from the Eglin Beach Park on Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., on Saturday.

Merrimack Police Chief Mark Doyle said the joke campaign to get Phil was an attempt to lighten the mood after a series of snowstorms that have buried New England.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf responded by saying the state would do what is necessary "to protect our beloved weather-predicting groundhog."

Woman stung by scorpion on airplane

CA LOS ANGELES — A woman on the hand just before her flight from Los Angeles to Portland took off.

Alaska Airlines spokesman Cole Cosgrove said Flight 567 was taxiing on the runway Saturday night when the passenger was stung. He said the plane returned to the gate and the woman was checked by medics. She refused additional medical treatment but didn't get back on the plane.

Meanwhile, flight attendants killed the scorpion and checked overhead compartments for any additional unwanted arachnids. The flight then took off at 8:40 p.m., about an hour late.

Cosgrove said it's unclear how

the scorpion got on the plane, but the flight originated in Los Cabos, Mexico.

Pilot escapes injury as small plane crashes

OR KLAMATH FALLS — A pilot escaped injury when a single-engine plane crashed into a field about 10 miles east of Klamath Falls.

Klamath County Sheriff Frank Skrah said the plane apparently ran out of gas late Friday afternoon.

The sheriff said the plane wasn't damaged but "is up to its belly in mud," so it might take some time to get it out of the field near the Jepsersen Ranch.

Meth found hidden in truckload of broccoli

AZ BLACK CANYON CITY — Authorities say 40 pounds of methamphetamine was found buried underneath a truckload of broccoli in central Arizona.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety said an officer pulled over a commercial truck for a moving violation around

2:45 a.m. Saturday on Interstate 17 in Black Canyon City.

The officer searched the semi-trailer and found a duffel bag containing several packages of meth.

The department said the driver, Ata Hamed Taha, 39, of Greensboro, N.C., was arrested.

Taha was booked into Maricopa County Jail on several drug-related charges including possession of dangerous drugs and control of an illegal enterprise.

DPS narcotics detectives said the meth is believed to be valued at \$440,000.

Couple plan sleep-out to help homeless

SC AIKEN — An Aiken couple are inviting residents to participate in their monthly mission, which is a sleep-out for the homeless in February.

Lowell and Lesley Koppert are asking people to participate in the sleep-out, which will be held from 6 p.m. Feb. 28 to 6 a.m. March 1 behind Aiken Motorcycle Sales and Service.

For a minimum donation of \$25, individuals will receive a T-shirt, a bagged breakfast and cardboard to sleep on. All donations will benefit the Mount Salem Out-

reach Mission in Gloverville, run by the Rev. Rob Lane.

Koppert said he hopes the 12 hours spent sleeping outside will give others a small glimpse into what it's like to be homeless.

Man's ring returned thanks to dog

DE WILMINGTON — A Delaware man who lost his wedding ring has been reunited with the band thanks to a dog named Butch.

John Johnson realized last month that his gold wedding band was gone. His wife said she tore the house apart looking but couldn't find the ring.

About a week ago, a man walking a boxer named Butch at Canby Park found the band. Tom Parvis said he looked down when Butch wouldn't budge and saw the ring, which was inscribed "Love to John, from Karen 12-2-95."

Parvis eventually located the right John and Karen thanks to the help of the Marriage Bureau and Tom Coviello, the longtime chief deputy clerk of the peace, who created a system to access Delaware marriage facts.

From wire reports

FACES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES AND FOCUS FEATURES/AP

Dakota Johnson, left, and Jamie Dornan appear in a scene from "Fifty Shades of Grey."

'Fifty Shades' whips up big debut weekend

The Associated Press

Audiences were more than curious to check out the big-screen adaptation of the racy phenomenon "Fifty Shades of Grey." The erotic drama sizzled in its debut, earning an estimated \$81.7 million from 3,646 theaters in its first three days, distributor Universal Pictures said Sunday.

In addition to destroying Valentine's and Presidents Day weekend records, "Fifty Shades of Grey" has become the second-highest February debut, behind "Passion of the Christ's" \$83.9 million in 2004.

The chart-topping film cost a modest \$40 million to produce. Starring Dakota Johnson and Jamie Dornan as Anastasia Steele and Christian Grey, it could earn more than \$90 million for the four-day holiday weekend.

Internationally, director Sam Taylor-Johnson's adaptation of British author E. L. James' book earned an estimated \$158 million from 9,637 locations in 58 territories. That's the second biggest international opening for Universal, right behind the \$160.3 million from "Fast & Furious 6," and the highest-ever international opening for an R-rated film.

Director Matthew Vaughn's graphic novel adaptation "Kingsman: The Secret Service" also exceeded expectations, landing in second place with an estimated \$35.6 million from 3,204 locations across the three-day period, according to Rentrak.

The R-rated film starring Colin Firth and Samuel L. Jackson cost a reported \$81 million to produce and should earn around \$41 million during the four-day weekend.

Animated children's film "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water" came in third with \$30.5 million in its second weekend. Rounding out the top five were "The American Sniper" (\$16.4 million) and "Jupiter Ascending" (\$9.4 million).

Other news

■ **"The Grand Budapest Hotel"** and **"The Imitation Game"** were named best original screenplay and best adapted screenplay, respectively, by the Writer's Guild of America on Feb. 14.

■ **Conan O'Brien** was spending Presidents Day in Cuba on Monday, when segments for an episode of his TBS late-night talk show, "Conan," that will air on March 4.

■ **Louis Jourdan**, the handsome Frenchman who starred in "Gigi," "Can-Can," "Three Coins in the Fountain" and other American movies, has died. He was 93.



From left: Will Ferrell as Alex Trebek, Darrell Hammond as Sean Connery, Taran Killam as Christoph Waltz, Jim Carrey as Matthew McConaughey and Norm Macdonald as Burt Reynolds during the "Celebrity Jeopardy!" skit on the "Saturday Night Live" 40th anniversary Sunday night.

NBC

By FRAZIER MOORE

The Associated Press

With a measure of anniversary hoopla perhaps exceeded only by the American bicentennial, "Saturday Night Live" celebrated its 40th season Sunday with a 3½-hour gala of stars, laughs and memories.

It aired live from New York's Studio 8H at NBC, which has been "SNL" HQ since premiering on a Saturday night in October 1975. It was a black-tie event so jammed with "SNL" alumni and other celebs they fueled an hour-long red carpet event before the big show even began. Some 80 names were listed in the opening credits.

It started with a medley of catchphrases, music and characters performed by Jimmy Fallon and Justin Timberlake that concluded, inevitably, with their pronunciation, "Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!"

Who was the rightful host? Steve Martin stepped up first, but was joined one by one by stars including Peyton Manning, Tom Hanks, Alec Baldwin, Billy Crystal, Melissa McCarthy, Paul McCartney and Paul Simon to dispute his selection.

Among the night's many tributes, Jack Nicholson noted that "when 'SNL' started, the last helicopter had just flown out of Vietnam, Watergate was still fresh in everyone's minds, and New York was broke."

Robert De Niro marveled that, 40 years later, "SNL" is "still at it. Forty years! That's like back when TV was still watched on TV."

Jerry Seinfeld said, "There are so many things about 'Saturday Night Live' that people don't know. For instance, I just found out that one of the original cast members in 1975 was Brian Williams."

It wasn't all live.

The first clip: John Belushi and Michael O'Donoghue in the language-lesson sketch that opened the very first "SNL" episode.

A remarkable montage of audition tapes from prospective "SNL" cast members included notable washouts Jim Carrey and Stephen Colbert.

New York was honored with clips and comic sketches capturing the love-it-hate-it spirit of the Big Apple through the decades, as well as a pivotal moment from the first "SNL" episode to air after 9/11 when then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told "SNL" creator Lorne Michaels "that 'Saturday Night Live' is one of our great New York City

ITS BIG 40

institutions, and that's why it's important for you to do your show tonight."

"Can we be funny?" asked Michaels, to which Giuliani replied with impeccable timing, "Why start now?"

Another sample reel traced the show's legacy of political humor. Will Ferrell, as 2000 presidential candidate George W. Bush, summed up the best argument for his election: "Strategy." Darrell Hammond as opponent Al Gore, offered his own: "Lockbox."

On a serious note, an in-memoriam segment remembered the members of the "SNL" troupe who have passed, and not just the on-camera stars (The Voice, Don Pardo), but departed members of the behind-the-scenes company and crew.

"Viewers of 'Saturday Night Live' span several generations, from the Baby Boomers to Generation X all the way to whatever you call the little dummies who are live-tweeting this right now instead of watching."

Tina Fey
former "SNL" cast member

It wasn't all taped, either. A classic commercial parody was encoed live: Super Bass-o-Matic, with pitchman Dan Aykroyd and Laraine Newman repeating their performances from 1976. An all-star soap-spoof "The Californians" was revived, including Taylor Swift, Bradley Cooper and Betty White. Dana Carvey and Mike Myers re-teamed for "Wayne's World."

A super anchor team was gathered for "Weekend Update." Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Jane Curtin. Their top story, of course, was the "SNL" anniversary.

"Viewers of 'Saturday Night Live' span several generations," Fey reported, "from the Baby Boomers to Generation X all the way to whatever you call the little dummies who are live-tweeting this right now instead of watching it."

As a guest commentator, the classic character Roseanne Rosannadonna (created by the late Gilda Radner) was revived by Emma Stone. Edward Norton did a take as Bill Hader's clubs correspondent Stefan McCarthy did the late Chris Farley's motivational speaker Matt Foley.

Musical guests were Kanye West, Miley Cyrus, McCartney and Simon.

The night's big rich: Eddie Murphy was greeted like returning royalty, with an introduction from Chris Rock that lasted much longer than Murphy's appearance. Murphy said little more than thanks.

After the buildup, his blink-and-he-was-gone participation was an epic fail. It was the main disappointment in a very long but mostly satisfying retrospective of TV's great comedy institution.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

JetBlue CEO must perform balancing act

By SCOTT MAYROWITZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Robin Hayes, the new CEO of JetBlue Airways, is balancing between passengers and Wall Street.

As he takes control of the New York-based airline Monday, Hayes faces a difficult task: Increase profits without destroying the culture that has made JetBlue stand out from other U.S. airlines.

JetBlue, after all, was the first carrier to give passengers free live TV at each seat and is still known for its friendly employees. For years, the airline has resisted charging for a first checked bag and boasted the most generous legroom in the industry. But, while the airline remained profitable, it lagged behind competitors. Wall Street demanded change.

To appease investors, Hayes recently announced that JetBlue will add a fee this spring for the first checked suitcase — a move estimated to bring in an extra \$200 million annually by 2017.

It also will add 15 more seats on most of its jets. That is expected to increase the profit per flight, but passengers will lose some personal space.

To the airline's fans, those were jarring decisions. Hayes stayed up until 3 a.m. personally answering the flood of emails.

"People are so passionate about the JetBlue brand and the JetBlue story. They are very protective of it," Hayes said. "I see that as a good thing."

Hayes, 48, was chosen in September to replace outgoing CEO Dave Barger. He is more receptive to investors than Barger, but JetBlue prides itself on doing right by workers and passengers. So, following the lead of his predecessors, Hayes flies to Orlando, Fla., every two weeks to welcome new hires at the airline's orientation-and-training program. And while he's crisscrossing more seats into planes, the passengers sitting in them will be getting larger TV screens and almost three times

as many channels.

With a degree in electrical engineering, Hayes spent a year designing military cockpit avionics systems. He missed interacting with people and quickly found himself working the ticket counter and gates in Glasgow, Scotland, for British Airways.

In 2008, while Hayes was British Airways' executive in charge of operations in North and South America, JetBlue offered him the job of chief commercial officer.

Hayes eventually became president in 2014.

British Airways focuses on long-distance flights and caters to business travelers who buy expensive, last-minute tickets. JetBlue is the opposite; its average flight is 1,088 miles — the distance between New York and Miami. Most passengers are on vacation, escaping chilly Northeast cities to the warmth of Florida, the Caribbean and increasingly Latin America.

Those routes, however, don't command high airfares.

For every 1,000 miles JetBlue flew last year, it collected an average of \$119 for each available seat. By that same measure, Southwest Airlines took in \$135, United Airlines saw \$137, American Airlines had \$140 and Delta Air Lines led the industry with \$146.

JetBlue's passengers flew a combined 37.8 billion miles last year. Getting the same revenue out of each seat as Southwest does would have brought in an extra \$615 million, at an airline whose profit last year was \$401 million.

Hayes doesn't expect to match the other airlines, but he wants to come much closer. While JetBlue will start charging for bags this spring, Hayes is quick to point out other amenities. There will be the new TV screens with up to 100 channels of live TV, free Wi-Fi and power outlets. It is hoped that passengers will pay more —

JetBlue does command a \$10-\$15 premium on leisure routes for a better experience and to enjoy those freebies.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 16)	\$1.1711
Dollar buys (Feb. 16)	€0.8539
British pound (Feb. 16)	\$1.58
Japanese yen (Feb. 17)	¥117.00
South Korean won (Feb. 17)	₩1,072.00

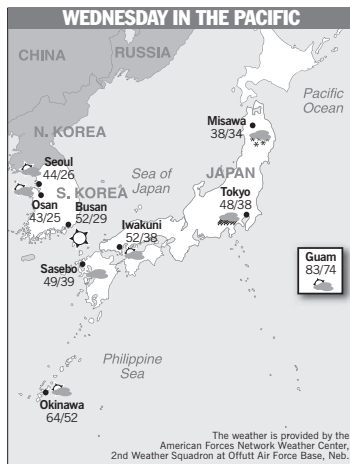
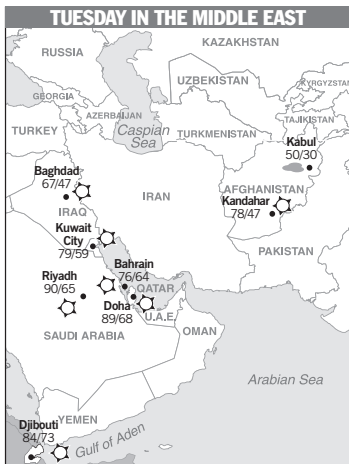
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.5378/0.6503
Canada (Dollar)	1.2474
Cyprus (Pound)	6.2489
Denmark (Krone)	6.5465
Egypt (Yen)	7.2625
Euro	\$1.1409/0.8765
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7576
Hungary (Forint)	268.67
Israel (Sheqel)	7.5588
Japan (Yen)	118.51
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2956
Norway (Krone)	44.22
Philippines (Peso)	3.66
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7522
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2566
South Korea (Won)	1,101.90
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9314
Thailand (Baht)	32.60
Turkey (Lira)	2.4475

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For purchasing British pounds in Germany, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying dollars. U.S. figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.12
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.65

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Able, Tex	50	32	Cldy	Chatanooga	35	21	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	20	4	Cldy	Louisville	24	1	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	18	9	Cldy	Cheney	31	19	Cldy	Fresno	74	48	Cldy	Lubbock	47	29	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	19	4	Cldy	Chicago	20	2	Cldy	Goodland	36	13	Cldy	Macon	51	27	Cldy
Albuquerque	53	28	Cldy	Cincinnati	23	5	Cldy	Grand Junction	20	3	Snow	Madison	42	3	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	26	6	Cldy	Cleveland	17	8	Cldy	Grand Rapids	20	3	Snow	Medford	63	37	Cldy
Amarillo	43	29	Snow	Colorado Springs	34	16	Pcldy	Great Falls	37	25	Cldy	Memphis	33	21	Cldy
Anchorage	39	28	Snow	Columbia, S.C.	50	30	Cldy	Green Bay	31	18	Cldy	Miami Beach	81	65	Cldy
Asheville	36	17	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	49	28	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	35	18	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	49	32	Cldy
Atlanta	42	25	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	21	7	Cldy	Hartford	37	24	Snow	Minneapolis	15	-1	Cldy
Atlantic City	29	9	Snow	Concord, N.H.	17	4	Cldy	Hartford	37	24	Snow	Missoula	42	21	Pcldy
Austin	50	32	Cldy	Corpus Christi	54	34	Cldy	Helena	44	26	Pcldy	Mobile	67	45	Cldy
Baltimore	25	15	Snow	Dallas-Ft. Worth	48	34	Cldy	Honolulu	84	67	Cldy	Montgomery	47	28	Cldy
Baton Rouge	47	30	Cldy	Dayton	21	5	Cldy	Houston	50	36	Cldy	Nashville	30	13	Cldy
Bilings	37	24	Cldy	Daytona Beach	74	50	Rain	Huntsville	34	22	Cldy	New Orleans	48	37	Cldy
Birmingham	40	24	Cldy	Denver	35	19	Cldy	Indianapolis	18	3	Cldy	New York City	24	19	Snow
Bismarck	-12	4	Cldy	Des Moines	16	0	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	41	26	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	30	19	Snow
Boise	51	33	Cldy	Detroit	19	6	Snow	Jacksonville	65	38	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	30	19	Snow
Boston	21	12	Cldy	El Paso	61	35	Cldy	Kansas City	24	7	Cldy	North Platte	32	7	Cldy
Bridgeport	24	9	Snow	Elkins	24	11	Snow	Lansing	77	67	Cldy	Omaha	21	2	Cldy
Brownsville	56	44	Cldy	Erie	15	7	Cldy	Larkspur	49	34	Cldy	Orlando	79	53	Rain
Buffalo	18	8	Snow	Eugene	63	42	Cldy	Las Vegas	70	47	Cldy	Paderborn	29	9	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	14	-7	Cldy	Fairbanks	30	4	Pcldy	Lake Tahoe	44	31	Rain	Pendleton	51	32	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	29	19	Cldy	Fargo	4	-18	Cldy	Lexington	22	2	Cldy	Philadelphia	27	16	Snow
Charleston, S.C.	56	33	Cldy	Flagstaff	51	26	Cldy	Lincoln	25	5	Snow	Phoenix	76	52	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	27	13	Cldy	Flint	20	2	Snow	Little Rock	37	25	Cldy	Pittsburgh	21	9	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	41	25	Cldy	Fort Smith	41	23	Cldy	Los Angeles	75	55	Pcldy				

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sun., 86, Saugus, Calif.
Lo: Sun.-31, Baraga Plains, Mich., and Mount Washington, N.H.

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Cut red tape so military couples can teach

By SIDNEY ELLINGTON

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy famously presented the connection between education and national security when he stated, "Our progress as a nation can be no swifter than our progress in education." More than 20 years later, the Nation at Risk report unflinchingly described our failure to adequately address our "mediocre educational performance as a self-imposed 'unilateral educational disarmament.'" Despite these warnings, our nation continues to focus primarily on external threats to our national security without considering the consequences of ignoring internal threats like our vulnerable education system.

To be fair, we've seen many indicators of progress, from more great schools in low-income communities to higher national graduation rates. Committed individuals across the country are diving in to do what's best for students, yet education remains a fringe issue for many. Our top news stories include the Middle Eastern violence and terrorism, and most Americans consider defending the U.S. against terrorism as the policy that should be the top priority for President Barack Obama and the 114th Congress, according to a recent poll by the Pew Research Center published just after January's State of the Union address.

Yet protecting, supporting and rebuilding our education system is a vital part of protecting our national security. The reality is that the system isn't working for all students, and that hurts everyone. In America today, eighth-graders in low-income communities are more than 2½ years behind their high-income peers in reading and math. Nearly 7 million young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are both unemployed and no longer attending school — most of them have either dropped out or have "graduated" without the basic reading, writing and math skills needed to hold a job.

The failure of the system — both within education and also beyond it — is closing doors of opportunity for many low-income students both in and out of school. And the cost to American taxpayers of these

undereducated — and thus consistently unemployed or underemployed — youth is estimated to be more than \$93 billion per year, an astonishing detriment to our national strength.

But we know that these challenges can be overcome and that a child's life trajectory can be improved in part by outstanding classroom teachers.

At Teach For America, we work to actively recruit military veterans and their spouses to our highest-need schools because we know the skills and talents they bring are invaluable to our students. We need the help of active-duty and veteran military — and their spouses — to help our kids build a brighter future.

While many focus on the transition of our troops into our nation's classrooms as excellent teachers, military spouses, too, have much to contribute to our nation's classrooms, and we must help them get into our schools and stay there. Unfortunately, our current policy for potential teachers is a distinctly mobile group. Military spouses who are teachers may surpass the requirements for teaching in their current states, but when their servicemember spouses receive transfer orders, the spouses find themselves considered "unqualified" in the new state.

This lack of a consistent policy for state-to-state reciprocity is a huge concern. According to a report published by the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, some 50 percent of teachers relocate to another state to follow a spouse or partner. Typically, a military family will move every two to three years, and a military spouse is 10 times more likely to have moved in the last year than his or her civilian counterpart. These frequent and disruptive moves make sustaining a teaching career extremely

difficult for the military spouse, resulting in a complicated mess of repeated quests to obtain licensing and long-term subbing.

There are more than a million men and women who make up our nation's active-duty military force, and about 50 percent of those servicemembers are married. Right now, roughly 5 percent of our nation's military spouses are also teachers. While they are already terrific role models for kids, military spouses also bring attributes such as leadership, patriotism, grit and cross-cultural experience that are so needed in our nation's classrooms.

Military spouses serve their country, too. Supporting spouses who are also teachers is the right thing to do. Streamlining licensure requirements in a way that makes transfers easier would benefit our country greatly. It would make teaching a more appealing career path for military spouses and more of America's students would benefit from their impact in the classroom. Schools would benefit by gaining new teachers who were highly experienced and who had taught in a variety of states, bringing innovation to the school environment and further diversifying faculty culture. And in the end, the personal benefits from the increased compatibility of the spouse's teaching career with the servicemember's military career, resulting in the servicemember being less likely to leave active service due to a need for the spouse to have a sustainable career.

This week the American Legion is hosting a new, groundbreaking Summit in our nation's capital to bring together experts from the private and nonprofit sectors, the armed forces, and federal agencies to share best practices for credentialing and enhancing civilian career prospects for veterans, servicemembers and military spouses. I applaud this effort, leading this critical conversation and am humbled that Teach For America will play a role in exploring how we can better serve spouses in the classroom. Our students deserve no less.

Sidney Ellington is a 20-year Navy veteran and managing director of Teach For America's You Served For America, Now Teach For America initiative.

See the full benefits of fixing climate change

By MARK BUCHANAN

Bloomberg News

President Barack Obama's administration wants to spend more than \$10 billion to spur renewable energy development — a move that has been cast as an important step toward sharing the burden of combating global climate change. But what if it isn't really a burden at all? What if the thing being shared is actually an opportunity?

In the typical economic analysis, greenhouse-gas emissions create long-term risks, which can be reduced only through measures that will stunt economic growth today. Hence, the question is how much of a burden we are willing to take on now to avoid problems later. The most economically efficient solution is to find the point at which the cost of eliminating a unit of current emissions matches the value of future destruction averted.

This framing of the matter, though, might not be as well-founded as it seems. Chinese economists Yongsheng Zhang and He-Ling Shi, for example, argue that some mitigation strategies may actually promote local economic growth. Recent research suggests, for example, that a better natural environment can improve the quality of resources and human capital, enabling technology to advance more quickly. In this

sense, taking steps to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions can actually boost growth in the near term.

Other research points in the same direction. Environmental economists at the University of Cambridge note that the typical pessimistic conclusions about the costs of mitigation largely reflect the use of standard economic modeling techniques.

Using more general, nonpolicy-based models, they find a wide range of conditions under which emissions reductions in electricity generation could, if the right kinds of finance were available, produce benefits by spurring invention and creating jobs.

It's hard to imagine that a hundred years from now, our descendants in an ecologically integrated society based on solar energy will despair that their ancestors took steps too early, and didn't benefit by burning some more fossil fuel. The positives could include a range of social and economic transformations — new technologies, new ways of employing people and resources, new kinds of economic organization. Today these possibilities do not even enter into the cost-benefit studies on what to do about climate change.

This thinking runs more along the lines of creative destruction envisioned by the economist Joseph Schumpeter in the early 20th century. There's also an interesting

historical analogy: A couple of centuries ago, many nations thought that free trade was a bad idea, and no one wanted to go first. Great Britain took the lead, ended up gaining early skills and experience in trade, and got ahead because of it. Soon other nations did the same.

The current unimaginative mindset may be the single biggest obstacle to achieving global action on climate. The only benefits we imagine are those that come directly from avoided damage, and the cost estimates are driven by severely limited economic models. If current economic theories didn't even allow for a financial meltdown like that of 2007-08, why should we trust them as a guide to the coming decades?

If we perceive climate policy as a problem in opportunity sharing, everything changes. Rather than dragging our heels to lose the least, we ought to be trying to gain the most. In this way of thinking, the Obama administration's plans — which include redirecting tax subsidies from oil and gas toward companies developing solar and other alternative energy sources — may well be pro-growth and pro-business all the way.

Mark Buchanan, a physicist and Bloomberg View columnist, is the author of the book "Forecast: What Physics, Meteorology and the Natural Sciences Can Teach Us About Economics."

OPINION

Being free to parent is no walk in the park

BY DANIELLE MEITIV

We all want what is best for our children. We want them to be happy and successful, and we want to protect them from harm. But what if we are protecting them from extremely remote threats while ignoring the things that most endanger their well-being? What if police and child welfare officials, the experts whom we empower to protect our children, are pursuing phantom problems while neglecting those who are truly at risk?

One recent Saturday afternoon, six police officers and five patrol cars came to my home in Silver Spring, Md. They demanded identification from my husband and entered our home despite not having a warrant to do so. The reason for this show of force? We had allowed our children to walk home from a neighborhood park by themselves.

A few hours later, a Montgomery County Child Protective Services social worker covered my husband in ink and signed a "temporary safety plan" for our children by threatening to take the children "right now" — a threat she backed up with a call to the police. In the weeks that followed, another worker from the agency appeared at our door with the police and insisted that we needed a warrant to enter our home. He also interviewed our children at school without our knowledge or permission.

When did Americans decide that allowing our kids to be out of sight was a crime?

Not everyone is comfortable with the idea of young children being outside without adult supervision. We're not always comfortable with it, either. We think, however, that giving them an opportunity to learn to make their way in the world independently is the best way to prepare them for adulthood — and that it is safe for them to do so.

Although our fears may tell us one thing about the world, the facts say something quite different. Crime rates across the United States are as low as they've been

in my lifetime. Stranger abduction, the bogeyman of most parental fears, has always been exceedingly rare. Far more hazardous are the obesity risks and idleness we subject children to if we do not allow them to run outside and play.

Fear, too, takes a toll. I wasn't there when the police brought my children home in a patrol car, but my 10-year-old called me, sobbing that "Daddy is getting arrested." The incident gave my daughter nightmares. My son told us that the social worker who questioned him asked, "What would you do if someone grabbed you?" — and suggested that he tell us that he doesn't want to go off on his own anymore because it's dangerous and that there are "bad guys waiting to grab you." This is how adults teach children to be afraid even when they are not in danger.

We are not the only parents in this position. Last summer, Debra Harrell, of North Augusta, S.C., spent 17 days in jail because she let her 9-year-old daughter play at a park while she was working. In Port St. Lucie, Fla., Nicole Gainey was arrested and charged with neglect because her 7-year-old was playing unsupervised at a nearby playground, and Ashley Richardson, of Winter Haven, Fla., was jailed when she left her four kids, ages 6 to 8, to play at a park while she shopped at the local food bank.

The problem with these cases, and ours, was not that police stopped to check on the children involved; that's what we want officers to do if they have concerns about a child's welfare. The problem is that, once it was determined that involved parents had already judged their children to be safe, the authorities didn't move along. Instead they turned to heavyhanded legal and bureaucratic remedies that did far more harm than good.

Nationwide, providers of social services are burdened with overflowing workloads and a constant stream of cases. So why are they wasting time with us? Even if CPS is mandated to follow up on every call, why



SAMMY DALLAL/For The Washington Post

Danielle Meitiv waits with her son, Rafi, 10, for her daughter, Dvora, 6, to be dropped off at the neighborhood school bus stop last month in Silver Spring, Md.

aren't there objective, rational criteria to determine which situations warrant attention? As long as the trigger for an investigation is "child left unsupervised," these workers will run themselves ragged and waste precious resources investigating families like ours while neglecting children who really need their help.

CPS' work is vital and necessary, but the pendulum has swung too far. We need to take back the streets and parks for our children. We need to refuse to allow ourselves to be ruled by fear or allow our government to overrule decisions that parents make about what is best for their children. Overprotecting parents in this way does not make children safer; it disrupts families

and makes our kids fearful, anxious and unhealthy. We also need to support groups such as the National Association of Parents, which fights for the constitutional rights of parents to raise their children as they see fit, as long as the children are not harmed.

And whether through the legislatures or the courts, neglect laws need to be redefined to safeguard parents' discretion to make reasonable risk-management judgments for their children, including the decision to allow them the freedom and independence that was the norm a generation ago and is still essential to their development and well-being.

This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Don't blindly follow UK on genetic modification

BY MARCY DARNOVSKY
AND JESSICA CUSINS

Britain is about to become the only country in the world to explicitly allow the inheritable genetic modification of humans. With a vote Feb. 3 in the House of Commons, the country has paved the way for "three-person in vitro fertilization," which combines genetic material from two women and a man.

Creating high-tech procedures like this to help women have healthy babies seems worthy of unquestioning support. But it's not so simple — and promises to soon get more complicated.

The techniques at immediate issue are relatively crude. They work by removing the nucleus from the egg (or embryo) of an intended mother, and inserting it into one provided by a second woman. Any resulting child would inherit its nuclear DNA from the intended mother and father and its mitochondrial DNA from the second woman.

Mitochondria exist inside cells, but outside the nucleus, and are passed from mother to child. The aim of the procedure is to prevent the transmission of defective mitochondrial genes that cause diseases.

There are a wide variety of mitochondrial diseases, and most also involve genetic mutations in the nucleus. About 15 percent of cases stem from solely defective

mitochondria, and only these women — estimated to be fewer than 15 per year in Britain — would be candidates for three-person in vitro fertilization.

Later this month, the House of Lords will give the final say on the regulations. If the bill is approved, it will carve out an exception to British law against the inheritable genetic modification of humans and put the country at odds with laws in 45 countries and provisions in several international treaties.

Crossing this threshold raises a profound societal question that until now has been hypothetical: As biotechnologies improve and enable us to make more specific genetic changes in our offspring, how far will we go? Will "mission creep" expand the genetic manipulations performed on future generations?

Genetic-engineering techniques now being developed, including "precision gene editing," soon may enable specific changes to nuclear DNA in embryos that would directly influence specific inherited traits. How do we ensure that we don't sneakwalk into a range of biotechnologies and eugenics in which genetic alterations or "enhancements," driven by parental preference or fertility industry marketing, exacerbate existing social inequalities?

Women affected by devastating mitochondrial diseases understandably would want to give cutting-edge medicine a try — if they were safe, and if there were no

better alternatives. But neither of these caveats holds in this case. In February 2014, an expert committee convened by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reviewed the same evidence available in Britain and concluded that three-person in vitro fertilization wasn't even ready for clinical trial. Yet Britain is barreling ahead to offer it in approved fertility clinics, outside a research context. Even more concerning, there is no required follow-up to study the health of any resulting children.

The FDA's experts and other scientists point to a range of complications that could seriously harm children conceived this way. Among their concerns: While mitochondria contain only a few dozen genes (compared with tens of thousands in the nucleus), there are hundreds or thousands of mutations in the cells of different human tissues. In fact, mitochondrial DNA and nuclear DNA are constantly interacting, and swapping different people's nuclei and mitochondria could disrupt that cellular communication.

Then there's the problem that if even tiny amounts of defective mitochondria wind up in the embryo, they could be preferentially replicated throughout a child's cells, causing or aggravating the very disease the procedure is meant to prevent. In addition, serious cellular harm can be caused by the nuclear transfer process itself.

There are safer family-building alternatives for women at risk of passing on

mitochondrial disease. Egg donation and adoption are the obvious ones. Another is the embryo genetic-screening technology that can be used with conventional in vitro fertilization. Nearly all women affected by mitochondrial mutations produce some eggs with sufficient "good" mitochondria to produce a healthy child, and embryos created with these eggs can be selected and implanted. The resulting child would be fully genetically related to its parents.

Technological advances are exciting, but that should not blind us to the scientific evidence — or the social and policy consequences. Like other powerful emerging technologies, inheritable genetic engineering calls for caution, cross-disciplinary engagement and informed public deliberation.

Will Britain's decision put pressure on U.S. regulatory authorities to greenlight such techniques? At the FDA's request, the Institute of Medicine recently began a 19-month review of their social policy and ethical implications. We are hopeful that this will be a very thoughtful deliberation of the entangled social, policy and safety questions at hand. Britain may soon be an international outlier, but the U.S. need not blindly follow suit.

Marcy Darnovsky is executive director and Jessica Cusins is project associate at the nonprofit Center for Genetics and Society. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

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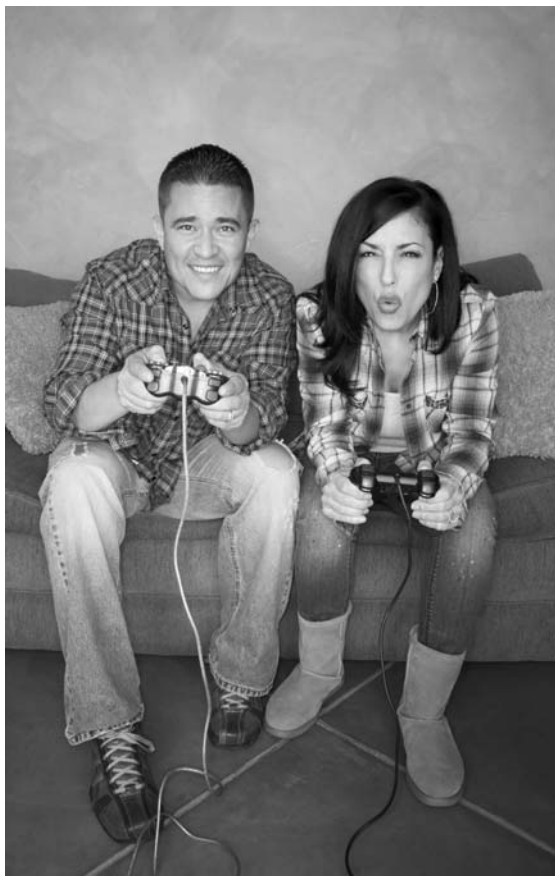
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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Montreal	55	35	15	5	76	148	123		
Tampa Bay	58	35	17	6	76	189	156		
Boston	55	28	20	7	63	144	141		
Florida	55	24	19	12	60	135	153		
Ottawa	54	22	20	10	54	152	152		
Toronto	57	23	29	5	51	160	175		
Buffalo	56	21	26	9	50	144	193		

Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
N.Y. Islanders	56	37	18	1	75	179	156		
Pittsburgh	56	35	15	6	73	161	141		
N.Y. Rangers	54	33	16	5	71	168	131		
Washington	57	30	17	10	70	168	145		
Philadelphia	56	24	22	10	58	151	162		
Columbus	54	24	27	3	51	142	170		
New Jersey	56	21	26	9	51	124	154		
Carolina	54	19	28	7	45	120	147		

Western Conference

Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Nashville	56	38	12	6	82	170	121		
St. Louis	56	37	15	4	78	178	137		
Chicago	57	35	18	4	74	172	131		
Minnesota	58	29	19	10	68	160	153		
Minnesota	55	28	20	7	63	153	149		
Dallas	56	26	26	4	60	175	179		
Colorado	56	23	22	11	57	144	159		

Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Anaheim	57	35	17	5	77	169	160		
San Jose	58	29	21	8	66	164	165		
Vancouver	55	31	17	7	69	164	155		
Calgary	56	31	22	3	65	162	144		
Los Angeles	55	28	18	9	65	152	148		
Arizona	57	30	20	7	67	129	189		
Edmonton	57	16	32	9	41	131	191		

Notes: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's games									
Chicago	2	Pittsburgh	1	50					
St. Louis	2	Florida	1	50					
Philadelphia	2	Buffalo	1	50					
Washington	5	Anaheim	3	50					
Tampa Bay	5	San Jose	2	50					
Monday's games									
N.Y. Rangers	at	N.Y. Islanders							
Carolina	at	Ottawa							
Montreal	at	Detroit							
Edmonton	at	Winnipeg							
Arizona	at	Colorado							
Minnesota	at	Vancouver							
Tampa Bay	at	Los Angeles							
Tuesday's games									
Philadelphia	at	Philadelphia							
Washington	at	Pittsburgh							
N.Y. Islanders	at	Carolina							
Buffalo	at	New Jersey							
Florida	at	Toronto							
Dallas	at	St. Louis							
San Jose	at	Nashville							
Wednesday's games									
Montreal	at	Ottawa							
Detroit	at	Chicago							
Minnesota	at	Calgary							
Los Angeles	at	Colorado							
Boston	at	Edmonton							
Tampa Bay	at	Anaheim							

Sunday

Capitals 5, Ducks 3									
Washington	2	2	1	5					
Anaheim	2	1	0	3					

First Period—1, Anaheim, Cogliano 7 (Beauchemin, Lindholm), 1:06. 2, Washington, Ovechkin 35 (Backstrom), 1:22. 3, Anaheim, Perry 24 (Smith-Pelly, Lindholm), 5:33. 4, Washington, Ovechkin 36 (Green, Backstrom), 10:26 (pp).

Second Period—1, Washington, Johansson 14 (Niskanen, Orpik), 3:27. 6, Washington, Burakovsky 8 (Ovechkin, Hillen), 5:06. 7, Anaheim, Cogliano 8 (Sjoberg, Lovejoy), 12:13.

Third Period—1, Washington, Burakovsky 9 (Ovechkin), 9:42.

Shots on Goal—Washington 12-9-7-26; Anaheim 10-10-9-29.

Power-play opportunities—Washington 0 of 4.

Goals—Washington, Peters 3-5 (3 shots-30 saves). Anaheim, Gibson 3-3 (0-23).

A=17.252 (17.174), T=2-29.

Lightning 5, Sharks 2

Tampa Bay									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose	1	1	0	0	2				

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 10 (Stralman, Filppula), 19:44.

Second Period—2, Tampa Bay, Killorn 12 (Callahan, Stamkos), 7:12. 3, San Jose, Couture 21 (Nieto, Irwin), 10:27.

Third Period—4, Tampa Bay, Palat 12, 10. 5, San Jose, Burns 15 (Marleau, Thornton), 11:38 (pp). 6, Tampa Bay, Paquette 12 (Filppula, Garrison), 16:19. 7, Tampa Bay, Callahan 17, 17:40 (en).

Shots on Goal—Tampa Bay 11-10-12-33. San Jose 12-15-8-35.

Power-play opportunities—Tampa Bay 0 of 1; San Jose 1 of 3.

Goals—Tampa Bay, Bishop 20-9-3 (35 shots-33 saves). San Jose, Niemelä 23-14-7 (32-28).

A=17.562 (17.562), T=2-21.

Flyers 2, Sabres 1

Philadelphia									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Buffalo	1	0	1	0	1				

First Period—1, Philadelphia, Read 5 (Simmonds, Schultz), 8:19.

Second Period—2, Buffalo, Zadorov 3 (Ristolainen, Foligno), 13:57 (pp).

Third Period—3, Philadelphia, Raffl 13 (White, Del Zotto), 12:45.

Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 15-9-6-30. Buffalo 5-11-6-22.

Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 0 of 2; Buffalo 1 of 3.

Goals—Philadelphia, Emery 10-9-3 (22 shots-21 saves). Buffalo, Neuvirth 3-15 (30-28).

A=18.759 (19.070), T=2-30.

Blues 2, Panthers 1 (SO)

St. Louis									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Florida	0	0	1	0	0				

St. Louis won shootout 2-1.

Second Period—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 20 (Lehtera, Tarasenko), 11:48.

Third Period—2, Florida, Bjostad 20 (Barkov, Ekblad), 18:47.

Shootout—St. Louis 2 (Oshie NG, Tarasenko G, Steen NG, Jaskin NG, Lehtera G), Florida 1 (Bjostad NG, Boyes G, Huberdeau NG, Hayes NG, Jokinen NG).

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 14-10-7-2-33. Florida 7-11-21-2-41.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 6; Florida 0 of 2.

Goals—St. Louis, Elliott 18-7-2 (41 shots-40 saves). Florida, Luongo 20-14-10 (33-32).

A=11.859 (17.040), T=2-43.

Blackhawks 2, Penguins 1 (SO)

Pittsburgh									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	0	0	1	0	0				

Chicago won shootout 3-2.

Second Period—1, Chicago, Hjalmarsson 2 (Saad, Toews), 3:22.

Third Period—2, Pittsburgh, Spaling 9 (Bennett, Sutter), 3:54.

Shootout—Pittsburgh 2 (Perron G, Crosby G, Letang NG), Chicago 3 (Toews G, Kane G, Sharp G).

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 15-10-11-1-37. Chicago 8-12-9-3-32.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 2; Chicago 0 of 2.

Goals—Pittsburgh, Fleury 26-11-6 (32 shots-31 saves). Chicago, Crawford 23-12-3 (37-36).

A=22.169 (19.717), T=2-45.



PAUL BEATY/AP

The Blackhawks' Patrick Sharp, right, scores the winning goal in a shootout against Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury during Sunday's game in Chicago. The Blackhawks won 2-1.

Roundup

Blackhawks top Pens in SO

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Patrick Sharp scored the decisive goal in the shootout as the Chicago Blackhawks beat the Pittsburgh Penguins 2-1 on Sunday.

Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane also scored in the tiebreaker as the Blackhawks earned their second straight win. They have captured six of a possible eight points through the first half of a season-high eight-game homestand.

Nick Spaling scored in the third period for Pittsburgh, which had won four of five. Marc-Andre Fleury made 31 saves through overtime, but was unable to stop any of Chicago's shootout attempts.

Thanks to David Perron and Sidney Crosby, the Penguins still had a chance for a big road win before Sharp skated in and beat Fleury into the right side for the victory. Fleury slammed his stick into the post in disgust after the final play.

Capitals 5, Ducks 3: Alex Ovechkin scored twice in the first period to take over the NHL lead in goals and send visiting Washington to a victory over Anaheim.

Ovechkin also set up two goals by Andre Burakovsky. Marcus Johansson got the go-ahead goal at 3:27 of the second period, and Justin Peters made 30 saves in his ninth start of the season.

Braden Holtby, who leads all NHL goalies in games and minutes played, got the night off following Saturday night's 3-1 loss to the Stanley Cup champion Los Angeles Kings.

Andrew Cogliano had two goals and Corey Perry netted his team-high 24th for the two-time defending Pacific Division champion Ducks, who lost left wing Matt Beleskey and defenseman Sami Vatanen in the first period due to undisclosed injuries.

Lightning 5, Sharks 2: Steven Stamkos scored his 30th goal of the season in Tampa Bay's win over host San Jose.

Alex Killorn, Ondrej Palat, Ce-

dric Paquette and Ryan Callahan also scored for the Lightning.

Ben Bishop stopped 33 shots as Tampa Bay won in San Jose for the first time in 12 years.

Blues 2, Panthers 1 (SO): Jori Lehtera scored the winning goal in the fifth round of a shootout to lift visiting St. Louis over Florida.

Vladimir Tarasenko also scored for St. Louis in the shootout, and Brad Boyes converted for Florida.

Lehtera beat Roberto Luongo with a shot between the pads.

Jaden Schwartz scored in regulation for the Blues, who are 15-3 in their last 18 games.

Flyers 2, Sabres 1: Michael Raffl and Matt Read scored for Philadelphia against host Buffalo.

Ray Emery made 21 saves as the Flyers ended their two-game skid in the finale of a four-game road trip.

Raffl scored the winner on a wraparound with 7:15 left in the third period after Sabres goalie Michael Neuvirth lost track of the puck behind the net.

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SKIING



PHOTOS BY BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

Lindsey Vonn entered the world championships with high hopes, but left with just one medal — a bronze in the super-G. She broke down in tears after skiing out of the slalom portion of the Alpine combined.

US ends with mixed results

Americans earn 5 world medals after Vonn, Miller woes

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — Bode Miller crashing and slicing his leg in what possibly could be his last race, Lindsey Vonn breaking into tears with all the pressure weighing on her, Ted Ligety and Mikaela Shiffrin coming through with gold medals as expected.

This was a wild world championships for the Americans, featuring wipeouts, wounds and even some weeping.

In the end, the United States produced five medals, tying its second-best showing at worlds. That was still way behind Austria, which finished with nine.

Austria, the powerhouse of Alpine skiing, just had that kind of championships — the kind the Americans were envisioning, especially with a home-snow advantage.

"We always believe we can be better," said Luke Bodensteiner, executive vice president of athletics for the U.S. Ski Team. "We leave here knowing we still have work to do and objectives that are higher, leading into 2018 (Winter Olympics in South Korea). But we have a good team, and we have a lot of talent that's coming up."

Luke Travis Ganong, who earned a silver medal in the downhill. He's steadily progressed over the last 12 months — from fifth at the Sochi Games to his first World Cup win in December and now this, a podium finish at worlds.

But some of the biggest names didn't exactly have the performances they were picturing.

Miller was a question mark heading into these championships because of a surgically repaired back. He gave it a go, though, and had a horrific super-G wipeout in



Ted Ligety became the first man to win three straight giant slaloms. He also added a bronze in the Alpine combined to the U.S. medal haul.

which he severed his right hamstring tendon. He had surgery immediately after the race, ending the championships for the six-time Olympic medalist. Miller's on the fence about whether he will retire.

"Maybe it is the last we've seen of him going fast on skis," team president and CEO Tiger Shaw said. "But then again, Bode is Bode. Kitzbuehel is still out there."

Vonn entered these worlds fresh off becoming the all-time winningest female skier on the World Cup circuit. The expectations were enormous, given she's from nearby Vail. She left with only a bronze super-G medal, not exactly the color she anticipated.

One of the indelible moments was Vonn sobbing after failing to finish the slalom portion of the Alpine combined, the disappointment overwhelming her.

A few days later Vonn turned in a fast final run of the giant slalom. No medal, still a solid run. Plus a chance at this — one last wave

and smile to the adoring crowd. "Who else can go that fast after not racing GS for two years?" Shaw said. "Only Lindsey."

Vonn never felt comfortable on this course, which was icy and bothered her surgically repaired right knee. She's had this competition marked on her calendar ever since a second knee surgery ended her hopes of being back in time for the Sochi Games last February. She was treating this event like the Olympics she didn't get to attend.

"Of course, it's extremely disappointing," Vonn said. "I've had a lot invested in these two weeks."

This was a rough world for Julia Mancuso, who always seems to raise her game at major competitions. Just not here.

Ligety made history in Beaver Creek, becoming the first man to win three straight world giant slalom titles. He also captured bronze in the Alpine combined.

Then there's Shiffrin, who hardly seems daunted by the big stage, even napping in a snow bank before her winning slalom run. The teenager from Eagle-Vail recovered from a slow start to defend her slalom title — and then didn't know how to celebrate.

"I'm not that great at showing my emotions," she said. "Guess I have to work on that."

It's not as though this U.S. team is getting younger. Miller could step away, and Vonn, Ligety and Mancuso have all turned 30.

Some big ski boots to fill. "We hope there are young athletes inspired by these moments, inspired by the type of success that Bode, Ted, Lindsey, Mikaela, Travis, Julia have had," Shaw said. "We need to have a good team, because of depth, not because we get lucky with one superstar."

Grange rallies for gold in men's slalom

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

BEAVER CREEK, Colo. — For the longest time, Jean-Baptiste Grange of France absolutely loved this course. Then, he wrecked his knee here.

Now his feelings have flipped again. Funny how a win — a big win at that — can change perceptions.

Skiing into heavy snowfall, Grange won the slalom title Sunday at the world championships after first-run leader Marcel Hirscher of Austria straddled a gate in the deteriorating conditions.

Trailing by 0.88 seconds heading into the final run of the last race, Grange had no trouble with the low visibility and snow sticking to goggles as he finished in a combined time of 1 minute, 57.47 seconds. Fritz Dopfer of Germany was second, 0.35 seconds behind, and teammate Felix Neureuther earned bronze.

"It's a wonderful gift for all of these four years — many injuries, bad bib numbers, no confidence sometimes," Grange said. "You know, skiing is always hard. But it's easier when you're on the podium and when you win."

Grange finished second in a super-combined race at Beaver Creek in 2007. But in 2009, he injured his right knee, which kept him out of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Didn't like this course so much anymore.

Just about the time he was returning to his winning ways, taking the 2011 world slalom title in Germany, chronic back pain began to constantly plague him.

So much so that he was actually contemplating retirement as recently as three weeks ago.

"I was thinking it's never going to be better," Grange said. "We are competitors so we want to achieve our goals. That's what I did today."

In the process, he made friends with this hill again.

"I think I have a tough emotion in Beaver Creek — bad and very good," Grange said.

Even with Hirscher going out, the Austrians easily won the medal race with nine, which was far more than the Americans.

After Dopfer took over the lead, a local choir group began practicing

ing the German national anthem in a nearby building. In mid time, though, they impressively switched to the French anthem as Grange took over the top spot with a nearly flawless run.

"I didn't expect this, but it's wonderful for me," Grange said.

Especially the way it went down. Hirscher going out? It seemed so unlikely, given how steady he's been.

The defending champion dropped time in the accumulating new snow. Then, with the finish line in sight, he went out. He was as shocked as anyone, lifting up his goggles and staring down the course in disbelief.

"Others had no problem with it," Hirscher said of the conditions. "So it's always your fault if you're not out."

The 25-year-old Hirscher leaves Beaver Creek with gold in the Alpine combined and team event, along with a silver in the giant slalom.

"In general, it was a super good world championships for me," Hirscher said. "Way more than we were expecting before worlds."

American Ted Ligety wound up 21st, 3.84 seconds behind Grange, as he struggled with the snowy conditions.

"I'm not very psyched on it," Ligety said of his final run. "Came down away out of the (lead) — pretty obvious I'm not going to be happy with that kind of performance."

Still, he finished the championships with gold in the giant slalom and a bronze in Alpine combined.

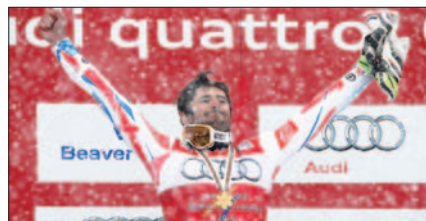
Entering the race, Dopfer was dealing with back pain. So bad, he couldn't even imagine competing, let alone earning a medal.

"It's a victory just to stand here without any pain," Dopfer said. "To have the silver medal, I cannot believe it at the moment."

Neureuther felt the same way about the bronze. He thought for sure Hirscher would bump him from the podium.

After all, it happened in the giant slalom, when Neureuther fell to fourth.

"You want to win and not to beat the others normally, not when they go out," Neureuther said. "But I'm very happy with a medal today."



MARCO TROVATI/AP

France's Jean-Baptiste Grange celebrates after his win in the men's slalom competition at the Alpine skiing world championships on Sunday in Beaver Creek, Colo.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kaminsky powers Wisconsin's rout of Illinois

No. 5 Badgers clinch best start in school history with win

The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Frank Kaminsky started hot for Wisconsin, then Bronson Koenig and Nigel Hayes finished off Illinois.

Kaminsky had 23 points and 11 rebounds, and the fifth-ranked Badgers won 68-49 on Sunday to clinch the best start in school history.

Kaminsky hit eight of his first nine shots on his way to 17 first-half points, but was then held scoreless for more than 16 minutes. But Koenig and Hayes combined to score 23 points in the second half as Wisconsin (23-2, 11-1 Big Ten) put the game away.

"Our guys really don't go out there and say, 'OK, let's make sure Frank gets his X number of points and then we'll get ours,'" coach Bo Ryan said. "We took what they gave us. That's all we ever do."

Koenig finished with 15 points, and Hayes added 14.

Illinois (17-9, 7-6) started the game hot, and four three-pointers in more than three minutes infuriated Ryan. Wisconsin responded by clamping down on defense.

The Illini then missed seven of their last eight shots in the half, and the Badgers sandwiched a 20-4 run around halftime. Illinois got no closer than nine points the rest of the way.

"It just goes to show you that we can beat you in a lot of different ways," Kaminsky said.

Malcolm Hill scored 15 points and Rayvonte Rice added 10 to lead Illinois, which had won four straight.

The Illini had held all four opponents to under 60 points and 40 percent shooting. But of those teams, only Michigan State ranks in the top half of the Big Ten in scoring average.

Illinois coach John Groce said he was most disappointed that his team was outrebounded 32-25 and allowed Wisconsin to turn 15 offensive rebounds into 12 points.

"Now you've got to sit down and guard them again," Groce said. "They're already the No. 1 offensive efficiency team in the last 17 years of analytics, so it would be preferable to guard them one time, instead of multiple times in a trip down the floor."

Rice still finding stroke: Rice was a bit better Sunday than he was Thursday against Michigan, his first action after missing nine games because of injury and suspension. Rice, who wore a wrap on his non-shooting hand, was 4-for-12 from the field, including 1-for-1 from the three-point line. In Thursday's win, he had four points on 2-for-7 shooting.

Ryan on Hall honor: Ryan received a standing ovation before the game for being selected as a finalist for the Basketball Hall of Fame. Asked what the honor would mean, he said it would be a "thank you" to all those who he's played for, coached and worked with, including administrators and faculty. Ryan said he's received a number of well wishes from former players. "If that would put the smile on the face of the 12th man that I had at Brookhaven Junior High School, Sun Valley, Plattville, Milwaukee, Madison," Ryan said before pausing, "I'd be pretty happy. I'd be really happy."



ANDY MANIS/AP

Wisconsin's Josh Gasser, right, drives against Illinois' Nnamna Ekwu during Sunday's game in Madison, Wis. The Badgers won 68-49.

Roundup

No. 11 Utes top California for 17th straight home win

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Jakob Poeltl had 18 points and eight rebounds, and No. 11 Utah beat California 76-61 on Sunday for the Utes' 17th straight home victory.

Down 32-26 with five minutes left before halftime, Utah closed the half on a 14-2 run and didn't trail after the break.

Delon Wright added 16 points for the Utes (20-4, 10-2 Pac-12), while Brandon Taylor had 13.

Tyrone Wallace led Cal (16-10, 6-7) with 26 points and Jabari Bird scored 21 as the Golden Bears' five-game winning streak was snapped.

Wright got the crowd back into the game with a steal and a breakaway two-handed, double-

pump dunk to take a 44-34 lead early in the second half. He then blocked a shot on the ensuing Cal possession.

The Golden Bears went 11:33 from late in the first half to early in the second with just one field goal. The Utes defense clamped down after Wallace's hot start to hold Cal to 41.4 percent shooting in the second half after it shot 50 percent in the first.

No. 7 Arizona 86, Washington State 59: Brandon Ashby, Rondae Hollis-Jefferson and Kaleb Tarczewski each scored 17 points as Arizona routed host Washington State.

T.J. McConnell added 14 points for Arizona (22-3, 10-2 Pacific 12), which plays WSU only once this season. The Wildcats led by

34 points after the first half.

Dexter Kernick-Drew scored 20 points and DaVonte Lacy scored 18 for Washington State (11-14, 5-8), which was coming off a win over Arizona State on Thursday. The Cougars were done in by woeful shooting in the first half.

No. 13 Northern Iowa 68, Missouri State 57: Seth Tuttle scored 22 points and visiting Northern Iowa matched its season-high with 12 three-pointers to beat Missouri State.

Jeremy Morgan and Deon Mitchell added 11 points apiece in the win for the Panthers (24-2, 13-1 Missouri Valley Conference).

Camryn Boone scored 14 points for Missouri State (9-17, 3-11 MVC), which lost for the 10th

time in its last 11 games.

Indiana 90, Minnesota 71: James Blackmon, Jr. had 24 points and seven rebounds to lead host Indiana over Minnesota.

Blackmon was 9-for-14 from the floor, including six three-pointers, tying a career high. Troy Williams and Robert Johnson added 19 points apiece for the Hoosiers (18-8, 8-5 Big Ten).

Andre Hollins finished with 23 points, while Maurice Walker and DeAndre Mathieu scored 12 points apiece for the Gophers (16-10, 5-8), who had a three-game win streak snapped.

Bucknell 78, Army 75: Chris Hass sank five three-pointers and finished with 26 points on 9-for-13 shooting to lift Bucknell over host Army.

Zach Thomas also went 5 of 7 from behind the arc to contribute 17 points and Nana Foulland added 16 points.

Tanner Plomb led the Black Knights with 19 points, Kyle Wilson added 18 and Dylan Cox 15.

Northwestern 66, Iowa 61 (OT): Bryant McIntosh scored 18 points and host Northwestern ended a 10-game losing streak with an overtime victory over Iowa after the Hawkeyes' Jarrod Uthoff nailed a three at the end of regulation.

Tre Demps scored 16 and Alex Olah had 11 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks for the Wildcats (11-14, 2-10).

Uthoff scored a career-high 25 points for Iowa (15-10, 6-6 Big Ten).

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ERIC RISEBERG/AP

Brandt Snedeker hits from the 18th fairway during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Sunday. Snedeker won the tournament after shooting a 5-under 67 to finish at 22-under-par.

Golf roundup

Snedeker tops own record in win at Pebble Beach

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Coming off the worst season of his career, Brandt Snedeker's mission was to become relevant again. He was eligible for only one major and none of the World Golf Championships, and he hated the idea of the world's best players competing without him.

That's what made Sunday at Pebble Beach so sweet. The view walking up the 18th fairway was spectacular for so many reasons.

Snedeker polished off a week that was close to perfect on the Monterey Peninsula by closing with 5-under 67 for a three-shot victory over Nick Watney. With only one bogey all week — yes, that still gnaws at him — Snedeker broke his own scoring record in the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

"It was an emotional win for me today because it's been a long time coming," Snedeker said. "The last year-and-a-half has not been up to my standard."

Once he took the lead for good on the par-5 sixth hole after Watney's worst swing of the week — a 4-iron into Stillwater cover — Snedeker pulled away by leaving the mistakes to everyone else. He finished at 22-under 265, breaking by two shots the record he set two years ago at Pebble Beach, and by two shots the winning score under par held by Phil Mickelson (2007) and Mark O'Meara (1997).

It was the seventh win of his career, his second title in three years at Pebble Beach, and the timing could not have been better for Snedeker.



COREY PERRINE, NAPLES DAILY NEWS/AP

Lee Janzen holds up the first place trophy Sunday after defeating Bart Bryant on the first sudden-death playoff hole to win the Champions Tour ACE Group Classic golf tournament in Naples, Fla.

He's back in the Masters.

The victory moved him to No. 31 in the world, which should put him in all the WGC events, starting with Doral in three weeks.

Jim Furyk, the 54-hole leader, didn't make his first birdie until the 11th hole. He missed three birdie putts inside 10 feet on the front nine, went out in 38, and was out of the hunt halfway through the final round. It was the ninth time Furyk failed to convert when he had at least a share of the 54-hole lead since his last victory at the 2010 Tour Championship.

Champions Tour: Lee Janzen had a good feeling about his 8-

foot putt on the No. 18 hole.

Janzen made the putt, then topped Bart Bryant in a playoff to win the ACE Group Classic on Sunday at TwinEagles Golf Club.

Bryant fought his way back into contention when he shot a 10-under 62 Sunday, tying a course record while Janzen had a 5-under 67.

Both were 16 under in regulation play.

However, Bryant struggled in the playoff. After a short drive, he had 178 yards to go on the first playoff hole, No. 18. His second shot hit the railroad ties before bouncing back into the water.

Janzen, with 164 yards to go, put his approach shot on the green. He then two-putted for the victory.

European Tour: Australian Andre Dold won his second European Tour title by beating countryman Scott Hend and local favorite Thongchai Jaidee by one shot at the Black Mountain Golf Club on Sunday in Hua Hin, Thailand.

With overnight leader Hend, who started the round with a one-stroke lead, and Thongchai struggling on the greens, Dold produced a bogey-free 67 to seal the victory with a 16-under-par 272.

It was the 29-year-old's second European Tour win after he won in Great Noida, India five years ago.

Six-time European Tour winner Thongchai, with four birdies against a bogey and a double bogey, settled for a final-round 71 and second with Hend, whose final round included three birdies and three bogeys for a 72.

Far East basketball scorebook

Boys		TBD, 1:30 p.m.
Division I		TBD, 1:30 p.m.
At Camp Foster, Okinawa		TBD, 1:30 p.m.
Monday		TBD, 3:30 p.m.
(Round-robin four-minute quarters)		TBD, 3:30 p.m.
Kubasaki 32, Kadena 29		TBD, 3:30 p.m.
Seoul American 19, Christian Academy Japan 14		TBD, 3:30 p.m.
American School in Japan 24, St. Mary's 12		
Division II		
CAJ 29, Kinnick 19		
ASU 32, Kubasaki 30		
St. Mary's 15, Seoul American 12		
Kadena 37, ASU 21		
Kubasaki 37, Seoul American 24		
St. Mary's 31, Kinnick 22		
Kadena 38, Seoul American 29		
Kubasaki 46, Kinnick 21		
St. Mary's 23, CAJ 13		
Tuesday's games		
(Round-robin, four-minute quarters)		
Kubasaki vs. St. Mary's, 8 a.m.		
American School in Japan vs. Kinnick, 8:45 a.m.		
Kadena vs. Christian Academy Japan, 9:30 a.m.		
Seoul American vs. ASU, 10:15 a.m.		
Kubasaki vs. CAJ, 11 a.m.		
Kadena vs. Kinnick, 11:45 a.m.		
ASU vs. CAJ, 12:30 p.m.		
Kadena vs. St. Mary's, 1:15 p.m.		
Seoul American vs. Kinnick, 2 p.m.		
Division II		
At Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan		
Monday		
Pool A		
Osan 32, E.J. King 21		
Okinawa Christian 35, King 31		
Perry 47, Okinawa Christian 18		
Perry 29, King 29		
Osan 46, Okinawa Christian 32		
Osan 48, Perry 45		
Pool B		
Yokota 50, Edgren 30		
Humphreys 36, Daegu 34		
Edgren 58, Daegu 30		
Yokota 55, Zion Christian 35		
Edgren 58, Humphreys 47		
Yokota 71, Daegu 25		
Zion Christian 42, Humphreys 38		
Edgren 44, Zion Christian 29		
Yokota 76, Humphreys 32		
Daegu 39, Zion Christian 21		
Tuesday's games		
(Double-elimination playoffs)		
E.J. King vs. Zion Christian, 8:30 a.m.		
M.C. Perry vs. Daegu, 8:30 a.m.		
Edgren vs. Okinawa Christian, 8:30 a.m.		
Osan vs. Humphreys, 11:30 a.m.		
Yokota vs. King-Zion winner, 11:30 a.m.		
Girls		
Division I		
At Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan		
Monday		
(Round-robin)		
Kinnick 37, Kubasaki 36		
Kadena 65, ASU 47		
Kinnick 40, Seoul American 34		
Kadena 59, Kubasaki 14		
ASU 48, Seoul American 23		
Kadena 49, Kinnick 15		
Tuesday's games		
(Round-robin)		
ASU vs. Kubasaki, 9 a.m.		
Kadena vs. Seoul American, 11 a.m.		
ASU vs. Kinnick, 1 p.m.		
Seoul American vs. Kubasaki, 3 p.m.		
(Single-elimination playoffs)		
No. 4 vs. No. 5, 7 p.m.		
Division II		
At Camp Zama		
Monday		
Pool A		
Okinawa Christian 36, King 15		
Zama 28, Osan 23		
Yokota 46, King 9		
Osan 47, Okinawa Christian 18		
Zama 45, Yokota 39		
Osan 37, King 22		
Yokota 38, Okinawa Christian 16		
Pool B		
Edgren 46, Daegu 13		
Sacred Heart 12, Humphreys 8		
Perry 25, Daegu 18		
Edgren 47, Humphreys 12		
Sacred Heart 28, Perry 18		
Humphreys 36, Daegu 19		
Edgren 45, Perry 30		
Tuesday's games		
Pool A		
Zama vs. King, 8 a.m.		
Yokota vs. Osan, 9:15 a.m.		
Zama vs. Okinawa Christian, 10:30 a.m.		
Pool B		
Sacred Heart vs. Daegu, 8 a.m.		
Humphreys vs. Perry, 9:15 a.m.		
Edgren vs. Sacred Heart, 10:30 a.m.		
(Playoffs)		
B4 vs. A5, 2 p.m.		
A4 vs. B5, 2 p.m.		
B2 vs. A3, 3:30 p.m.		
A2 vs. B3, 3:30 p.m.		
A1 vs. Game 1 winner, 5 p.m.		
B1 vs. Game 2 winner, 5 p.m.		



SARA FRAZIER/Special to Stars and Stripes

St. Mary's Li-Kai Wu tries to score against the defense of Kinnick's Josiah Ferguson and Dominic Rosa in St. Mary's 31-22 victory on Monday at the Far East Division I boys basketball tournament.

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

All-Star notebook

All-Stars bring game back to hoops Mecca

By TOM WITHERS
AND ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bernard King remembers the rugged battles under the basket, trading elbows and shoves for a precious rebound.

Every possession was important because losing meant leaving the court.

King learned to play on blacktops in Brooklyn, where reputations are earned and nothing's given.

"Sometimes," the former Knicks star forward said, "playing the game on the playground was tougher than playing in the NBA. At least in the NBA you had the benefit of an official."

This weekend's All-Star celebration, which culminated with the Western Conference's 163-158 win over the East on Sunday night, was not only a chance for the league to honor the game's current top players but to pay homage to this city, where the sound of a basketball bouncing on pavement is part of the soundtrack of so many lives.

Before Sunday's main event in Madison Square Garden, "the city game" was celebrated in all five boroughs — Brooklyn, the Bronx, Queens, Manhattan and Staten Island, as New York welcomed the hoops world onto its home court.

From famed Rucker Park in Harlem to the outdoor courts near King's home in Brooklyn's Fort Greene Projects, basketball connects New Yorkers.

During the annual "Legends Brunch" honoring some of the league's biggest stars, King and other New York hoop icons such as Julius "Dr. J" Erving, late "Tiny" Archibald, the only player to lead the NBA in scoring and assists in the same season, Walt "Clyde" Frazier, Chris Mullin and Kenny Smith told stories of pickup games on New York's concrete courts.

Archibald remembers people climbing trees to watch outdoor games between his team and Erving's.

"We thought the only game was the New York game," he said.

Mullin grew up idolizing Frazier, the Knicks' flamboyant point guard known as much for his outlandish outfits as his silky smooth jumper.

"I wanted to be Clyde Frazier," Mullin said. "I wanted suede Pumas."

Mullin recalled taking the subway downtown from Brooklyn so the slow, left-handed white kid with the deft shooting touch could test his game against black players.

"They would meet me at the train and walk me to the park," said Mullin, a 16-year NBA veteran and member of the original U.S. Olympic "Dream Team."

"After the game, they would walk me back to the train. Then,

when I started winning games they left me alone and I got to hang out in Harlem by myself."

Mullin attended Power Memorial High School, also the alma mater of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, the NYC legend who went on to become the most prolific scorer in league history. Mullin said that seeing Abdul-Jabbar's retired jersey in the school gym each day inspired him to shoot for the stars and play pro ball.

"It was a dream, but it was also a reality," he said.

Three-point happy: In the latest showing of how much the NBA has become an outside-inside league, the All-Star Game set a record for the most three-pointers — shattering the mark set last year.

The teams combined to make 48 shots from beyond the arc, with the West hitting 25 of 65 and the East making 23 of 68. The previous mark was only 30, which came last season.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver (East) and Houston's James Harden (West) both finished 7-of-12 shooting from 3-point range to lead the way.

All-star challengers: Slam-dunk champion Zach LaVine and three-point champion Stephen Curry are welcoming all challengers for next year.

LaVine, the spry 19-year-old Minnesota Timberwolves rookie, already is encouraging teammate Andrew Wiggins to compete in the 2016 dunk contest. The event will be held in Wiggins' hometown of Toronto.

"I'm going to be talking a lot of mess to him to try to get him to join it," LaVine said. "I'm looking forward to that. It gives me inspiration to make it next year. It gives me a lot of motivation."

Wiggins helped LaVine win Saturday night's contest at Brooklyn's Barclays Center. During a practice session, LaVine hit the nearly knocked Wiggins unconscious.

"That's the funny thing, I didn't do that one," LaVine said, drawing laughs. "I got some tricks in the bag still."

Curry is counting on Golden State Warriors teammate and fellow "Splash Brother" star Klay Thompson to try and dethrone him next year, too.

Thompson had an opening-round best of 24 in the three-point contest, but scored only 14 points in the final round. Curry posted a 27, while Cleveland's Kyrie Irving finished with 17 points in the three-man final.

Thompson congratulated Curry and expects to compete against him in next year's matchup.

"He's been doing that since he was born. He's been putting on a show his entire NBA career and even back in college. I'm proud of him," Thompson said. "Hopefully, he'll let me win next year."



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Knicks center Amare Stoudemire, right, agreed to a buyout with the team, a source said.

Briefly

Stoudemire getting buyout

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Amare Stoudemire started the New York Knicks moving forward, before his injuries hastened their return to the bottom.

Now he wants to look elsewhere for a chance at a championship.

The veteran forward agreed to a buyout of his contract with the team, a person with knowledge of the deal said early Monday. Stoudemire will be free to sign with another team once he clears waivers.

Carmelo Anthony, who wanted to play for the Knicks in part because Stoudemire had signed there in 2010, learned the news Sunday after playing in the NBA All-Star Game.

"Amare brought something back to New York that New York was kind of missing and needing for a long time," Anthony said. "When he came, he brought back some of the excitement here for the game of basketball in New York. There was hope when he came back. People started believing in the New York Knicks once again. He was the main reason for that belief and for that hope when he first got here in New York."

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the buyout hasn't been announced. It was first reported by the Daily News of New York.

Stoudemire was an All-Star in Phoenix before signing a five-year contract worth about \$100

million in 2010. He helped the Knicks end a seven-year playoff drought and reach the postseason his first season, but he missed significant time over the last few seasons because of assorted injuries. The Knicks had to monitor his minutes since his two knee operations during the 2012-13 season.

He can still score when able to play, averaging 12 points in 24 minutes per game this season. So he may draw interest from contending teams before the regular-season schedule resumes Thursday.

"To see him leave, to see the situation where it's at right now, I know what he wants and you have to respect that," Anthony said. "As an athlete, as a competitor, you only want the best for your friends, your close ones. He wants to play for a championship is what I'm hearing. He wants to play for a contender. I don't think nobody should hold that away from him."

Armstrong loses \$10M fraud arbitration

AUSTIN, Texas — A three-man arbitration panel has ordered Lance Armstrong and Tailwind Sports to pay \$10 million in a fraud dispute with a promotions company.

Dallas-based SCA Promotions announced the 2-1 ruling against the former cyclist on Monday when it asked a Texas state court to confirm the arbitration

decision.

SCA paid Armstrong about \$12 million in bonuses during his career, when he won seven Tour de France titles. Those victories were stripped away after Armstrong and his U.S. Postal Service teams were found to have used performance-enhancing drugs.

SCA disputed bonuses in arbitration in 2005, and the case produced the foundation of the doping evidence that was used against him. After Armstrong's cheating was exposed, SCA sued to get its money back.

Source: Yanks to retire Pettitte's No. 46

NEW YORK — A person familiar with the decision confirms the New York Yankees plan to honor Andy Pettitte this summer by retiring his No. 46 and giving the pitcher a plaque in Monument Park.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday night because the team had not yet made an announcement, which was expected in the next few days.

Pettitte's son, Josh, posted the news on Twitter earlier Sunday.

Pettitte helped the Yankees win five World Series championships. He ranks third in team history with 219 wins and first in strikeouts with 2,020. The left-hander retired in 2013 after spending 15 of his 18 major league seasons in pinstripes.

NBA



West side story

Westbrook leads Western Conference to win in highest-scoring All-Star Game

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mixing Broadway and basketball, this NBA All-Star Game was a West Side Story.

Russell Westbrook scored 41 points, one shy of the All-Star record, and the Western Conference beat the East 163-158 on Sunday night in the highest-scoring All-Star Game ever.

The Oklahoma City speedster had a record 27 points by halftime and closed out the scoring with two free throws, falling one point shy of Wilt Chamberlain's 42 points in the 1962 game. He was voted the game's MVP at Madison Square Garden.

The NBA's return to New York showed off everything about the Big Apple, and by the time Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" played after the game, it was clear Westbrook was king of the hill.

"It's amazing. It's a blessing to be here in New York City," Westbrook said during the MVP ceremony.

James Harden added 29 points, eight rebounds and eight assists for the West, which built a 20-point lead in the first half and then pulled away after it was tied at 148 with a little more than 4 minutes remaining.

The combined 321 points surpassed the 318 scored last season, and the 48 three-pointers smashed last year's record of 30.

LeBron James finished with 30 points, but couldn't lead the East to the victory in his favorite NBA arena.

"Don't get no better, man. You played in the Garden in front of these fans," James said.

Harden's three-pointers snapped the final tie with 4:02 to play and Chris Paul followed with consecutive baskets. Westbrook's fifth three-pointer put it away at 158-149 with 2:22 to go.

"We just talk about having fun all game long and then at a certain point in the fourth quarter it's time to win," Paul said.

Atlanta's Kyle Korver made seven three-pointers and scored 21 points for the East, while Washington's John Wall had 19.

But right from the start, the players were sharing the stage.

Christina Aguilera appeared from behind a giant big man, and belted out some New York-inspired numbers to start the show, joined by the Rockettes.

Entertainment's elite were all over the arena, with players hobnobbing with Jay-Z and Floyd Mayweather near their courtside seats at halftime. But the biggest roar came for a star from another sport — politics.

President Bill Clinton, who had a big night of his own at Madison Square Garden when he was nominated here during the 1992 Democratic National Convention, got a pair of loud ovations when he was shown during Queen Latifah's performance of the national anthem.

Players were quizzed during comedic skits on New York talk and terms, and fuggedaboudit, Pau Gasol had no idea what a stoop was. (Stephen Curry knew it was a porch in the front of a building).

Pau won the jump ball against little brother Marc to begin the first All-Star Game featuring two sibling starters, but for a while it looked as if that would be the East's only win of the night.

Pictured at left, from top: The West's James Harden tries to keep the ball inbound during the second half; East point guard John Wall soars for a first-half dunk; Western Conference All-Star Dirk Nowitzki spins the ball on his finger during the second half; the East's LeBron James goes up for a dunk during the first half.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	36	17	.679	—
Brooklyn	21	31	.404	14½
Boston	20	31	.392	15
Philadelphia	12	41	.226	24
New York	10	43	.189	26

Southeast Division

Washington	33	21	.611	10
Charlotte	22	30	.423	20
Miami	22	30	.423	20
Orlando	17	39	.304	27

Central Division

Cleveland	33	22	.600	1½
Milwaukee	30	23	.566	3½
Detroit	21	33	.389	13
Indiana	21	33	.389	13

Western Conference

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	39	14	.736	—
Houston	36	17	.679	3
Dallas	36	19	.655	4
San Antonio	34	19	.642	5

Northwest Division

Portland	36	17	.679	—
Oklahoma City	28	25	.528	8
Denver	20	33	.377	16
Utah	19	34	.358	17
Minnesota	11	42	.208	25

Pacific Division

Golden State	42	9	.824	—
L.A. Clippers	35	19	.648	8½
Phoenix	29	25	.537	14½
Sacramento	18	34	.346	24½
L.A. Lakers	13	40	.245	30

Sunday's game

West All-Stars vs. East All-Stars 158

Monday's games

No games scheduled

Tuesday's games

No games scheduled

West 163, East 158

WEST ALL-STARS — Aldridge 7-11 0-0 18, Thompson 2-11 2-2 7, Gasol 3-6 0-0 6, Curry 6-16 0-0 15, Harden 11-16 0-0 29, Westbrook 16-28 4-4 41, Durant 1-6 0-0 3, Duncan 1-2 0-0 2, Paul 6-13 0-0 12, Lillard 4-12 0-0 11, Cousins 6-7 2-3 14, Nowitzki 6-12 0-0 5, Totals 65-133 8-9 163.

EAST ALL-STARS — Anthony 6-20 0-0 14, James 11-21 4-5 26, Gasol 7-9 0-0 26, Irving 9-16 0-0 19, Lowry 4-13 0-0 10, Irving 4-9 1-11, Horford 4-6 0-0 8, Teague 6-9 0-0 13, Millsap 2-6 0-0 5, Korver 7-11 0-0 21, Bosh 4-6 0-0 10, Butler 3-4 0-0 6, Totals 50-120 5-16 158.

West All-Stars 47 36 39 46 36-163

East All-Stars 26 46 40 36-158

Three-Point Goals—West 25-65

Rebounds—West 25-65

Assists—West 25-65

Steals—West 25-65

Blocks—West 25-65

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—West 42

Assists—West 42

Steals—West 42

Blocks—West 42

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

Fouled Out—None

Rebounds—East 40

Assists—East 40

Steals—East 40

Blocks—East 40

AUTO RACING

Scoreboard

Budweiser Duel 1

NASCAR Sprint Cup
After Sunday qualifying;
race Thursday

At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Number in parentheses)

1. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 201.293
2. (20) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 200.214
3. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 199.867
4. (33) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 197.507
11. (23) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 193.133
6. (83) Johnny Sauter, Toyota, 198.222
7. (6) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 197.256
8. (43) Aric Almirola, Ford, 197.2
9. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 193.357
10. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 193.241
11. (23) J. J. Yeley, Toyota, 192.12
12. (27) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 192.135
13. (47) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 198.212
14. (4) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 197.594
15. (14) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 197.968
16. (13) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 197.946
17. (46) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 196.524
18. (42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 195.588
19. (95) Michael McDowell, Ford, 195.3
20. (15) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 194.995
21. (29) Justin Marks, Toyota, 194.675
22. (25) Cole Whitt, Ford, 194.012
23. (40) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 193.299
24. (30) Ron Hornaday Jr., Chevrolet, 193.291
25. (88) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 193.291

Budweiser Duel 2

NASCAR Sprint Cup
After Sunday qualifying;
race Thursday

At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

1. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 201.135
2. (48) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 200.187
3. (19) Carl Edwards, Toyota, 197.837
4. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 196.562
5. (29) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 196.676
6. (18) Greg Biffle, Ford, 197.477
7. (9) Sam Hornish Jr., Ford, 197.243
8. (47) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 196.816
9. (21) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 193.282
10. (12) Michael Waltrip, Toyota, 190.517
11. (22) Bobby Labonte, Ford, 190.517
12. (7) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 190.517
13. (31) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 198.177
14. (41) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 197.576
15. (10) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 197.569
16. (62) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 197.828
17. (51) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 196.532
18. (38) David Gilliland, Ford, 195.346
19. (26) Jeb Burton, Toyota, 195.004
20. (44) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 194.378
21. (38) David Gilliland, Ford, 194.452
22. (58) Josh Wise, Ford, 193.386
23. (46) Mike Wallace, Toyota, 192.509
24. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 192.509

Earnhardt, Hamlin cars fail inspections

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The cars of NASCAR drivers Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Denny Hamlin have failed post-qualifying inspection for the Daytona 500 pole.

Earnhardt and Hamlin will have to start at the rear of their respective qualifying races Thursday.

Earnhardt's No. 88 Chevrolet did not meet NASCAR's minimum height requirement. Earnhardt responded to the penalties on Twitter, saying it was an eighth of an inch too low. "That's a shame. The boys will figure out why. Makes the duels a lot more interesting," Earnhardt tweeted.

The track bar in Hamlin's No. 11 Toyota did not meet specifications. He also took to Twitter to jokingly explain what went wrong. He wrote: "Crash damage. It was the wreck I say!!! Lol."

Earnhardt posted the 10th-fastest time in the final qualifying round. Hamlin was third fastest in the session.

— The Associated Press

Gordon claims final Daytona pole

Retiring driver, teammate Johnson out front in controversial qualifying

By JENNA FRYER

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — The qualifying session for NASCAR's biggest race of the year was lambasted by Tony Stewart as "a complete embarrassment" and called a "cute show" by Clint Bowyer.

The frenetic knockout format ended with Jeff Gordon on the pole for the final Daytona 500 of his career.

And as NASCAR executive vice president Steve O'Donnell tried to answer to the wave of displeasure from the drivers after Sunday's session, he was reminded by Gordon himself what a predicament the series is in regarding qualifying for "The Great American Race."

"Great format, Steve!" Gordon shouted to O'Donnell from the back of a news conference room.

Indeed, Gordon had no qualms with qualifying after he and Hendrick Motorsports teammate Jimmie Johnson outsmarted the field Sunday to sweep the front row for the Daytona 500. They were among only a handful of drivers who were pleased with the format, and their opinion was most certainly based on the end result.

"This format is crazy and chaotic," Gordon said. "It can be extremely rewarding when you have a day like we had."

NASCAR abandoned single-car qualifying runs, the format used for 56 years at Daytona International Speedway, for the knockout group sessions it adopted last season. The format was not tried at the Daytona 500 last year, but was used at the speedway in July.

The group qualifying works fine at most racetracks, but has been proven tricky at Daytona and Talladega, where drivers must draft and the leader is not the fastest car. It's led to strategies that have drivers sitting on pit road watching the clock, and jockeying for position when it's time to go.

After a five-car accident in the first group of 25 drivers, Bowyer rallied against using knockouts to set the Daytona 500 field. Reigning champion Kevin Harvick and Stewart both vented via Twitter, while Ryan Newman was among the drivers critical of NASCAR.

"It's hard to stand behind NASCAR when everybody I talk to up and down pit road doesn't understand why we're doing this," New-



TERRY RENNA/AP

Hendrick Motorsports teammates Jeff Gordon, left, and Jimmie Johnson qualified Sunday for the front row of the Daytona 500. Gordon will start at the pole position in his final Daytona 500 before retiring.

man said. "Maybe I need to be set on down and educate a little bit."

O'Donnell, who acknowledged the drivers' complaints, said NASCAR is trying to create a more entertaining format for fans than the snooze-inducing single-car runs.

"We don't want to see wrecks of any kind. Not lost on us how much work goes into these cars by the teams, the efforts for our biggest race of the year," he said. "We've got a really good track record of making adjustments where we need to, so we'll certainly evaluate what took place."

But the 12 drivers who made it into the final round weren't really complaining, especially Gordon, who announced last month this will be his final full-time season as driver of the famed No. 24 Chevrolet.

He's been adamant next Sunday's season-opening Daytona 500 will be the last of his storied career. The four-time NASCAR champion is a three-time 500 winner, and he'll lead the field to green in his 23rd and final start.

"I can't think of anything cooler than to start this season, the Daytona 500, my final Daytona 500, final full season, on the pole," Gordon said. "It's going to

be pretty important for me to be on that pole when it all starts."

Gordon was the first pole winner to eclipse 200 mph since 1987. His pole-winning speed was 201.293, but gained because he was being pushed by Johnson rather than running a lap around the speedway alone.

The group qualifying was messy from the start, when the first 25 drivers all jockeyed for position before they even left pit road. Some even drove through the grass to get through the traffic jam.

It stuck Bowyer behind Reed Sorenson, a driver who needed a big run Sunday to lock himself into the field.

So Sorenson tried to block Bowyer in a desperation attempt to advance through the knockout rounds and it triggered a five-car pileup.

Both Bowyer and Sorenson ended up with a pair of wrecked Toyotas. It was Sorenson's only car of Speedweeks, and he wasn't sure if he'd be able to locate another car before Thursday's qualifying races.

"I didn't mean to wreck anybody or anything like that," Sorenson said. "Just a product of this qualifying, trying to get that one lap. I didn't want it to end that way, that's for sure."

Bowyer was seething. He placed the blame squarely on NASCAR for scrapping single-car qualifying runs in favor of the more exciting knockout rounds.

"It's NASCAR's fault for putting us out in the middle of this for nothing," Bowyer said. "We used to come down here and worry about who would sit on the front row in the biggest race of the year. Now all we do is come

down here and worry about how a start-and-park like this out of desperation is going to knock us out of the Daytona 500."

"We've been in meetings for 45 minutes just trying to figure out what in the hell everybody is going to do just so we can make the race. It's stupid."

The knockout rounds whittled it down to one final 12-car session in which the drivers had five minutes to make a qualifying run.

Only all 12 idled on pit road, as none of them wanted to be first out on the track.

Finally, Martin Truex Jr. pulled onto the track and the others slowly followed. It was apparent as they raced to cross the starting line in the allotted time that they'd all been timing their move to make their lap just under the wire.

It worked to perfection for Gordon and Johnson, who gave Hendrick Motorsports a sweep of the front row for the fourth time in history.

"This is one of the more gratifying poles here at Daytona that I've ever had, not just because it's my final Daytona 500, but because we've got to try and plan it out and you play that chess match and play it really really well," Gordon said.

Gordon called the three rounds "nerve-racking" and said it wasn't his plan to sit that long on pit road.

"I really wanted to go sooner than that," he said.

Also locking themselves into the field based on qualifying speed: Aric Almirola, Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Jamie McMurray and Carl Edwards. It was a huge relief for Edwards, who moved to Joe Gibbs Racing in the offseason, and his new fourth car was not guaranteed a spot in the field.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Reed Sorenson (44) and Clint Bowyer head towards turn 1 moments before they were part of a five-car crash during Sunday's qualifying.

SPORTS

Life in the fast lane

Gordon will start his final Daytona 500
from front of pack » **NASCAR, Page 31**

NBA ALL-STAR GAME

King of New York

OKC's Westbrook scores 41 in MVP performance

Page 30

Oklahoma City Thunder All-Star Russell Westbrook led the West team to a 163-158 victory over the Eastern All-Stars on Sunday in New York. Westbrook's game-high 41 points were one point shy of Wilt Chamberlain's All-Star Game record of 42, set in 1962.

KATHY WILLENS/AP

Inside: ■ All-Star weekend fitting tribute to NYC, Mecca of basketball, Page 29

